Murray's

HANDBOOK

SHROPSHIRE & CHESHIRE

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E.K. Walthew

A HANDBOOK

FOR

SHROPSHIRE AND CHESHIRE

☆ This sign in the text appended to a name indicates that further information relating to the subject is to be found in the INDEX and DIRECTORY at the end of the book.

A HANDBOOK

FOR RESIDENTS AND TRAVELLERS IN

SHROPSHIRE AND CHESHIRE

THIRD EDITION, REVISED

WITH MAPS AND PLANS

LONDON
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET
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PREFACE.

The present edition of the Handbook for Shropshire and Cheshire has been thoroughly revised and brought up to date, particular attention having been devoted to those districts in Shropshire—such as the neighbourhoods of Church Stretton, Bishop's Castle, and Clun—which are most visited, or most worthy of being visited by tourists in search of picturesque and wild scenery, and care has been taken to indicate the best methods by which pedestrians can explore the fine scenery of the more mountainous parts of the county.

The account of Chester has been almost entirely rewritten, with a special eye to the requirements of the many visitors who resort to that ancient city, and it is hoped that there is no object worthy of the attention of visitors in either county which has not received adequate notice. A number of sectional maps, as well as one of a general character, together with plans of the two county towns, have been added to this edition. Thus the Handbook may fairly claim to afford a greater amount of information respecting the two counties with which it deals than any similar publication.

The great difficulty in the way of tourists in Shropshire is the want of adequate hotel accommodation in many of the more picturesque parts of the county. The excursions have been planned so as to overcome this difficulty as far as possible, and a list of hotels and inns is combined with the Index, some of which are first-rate, whilst the others will, it is believed, in all

cases be found to afford comfortable, if less spacious, accommodation for tourists. Information as to fishing, posting, &c. will be found in the same part of the work.

It is impossible, notwithstanding all efforts to the contrary, that a guide, even to so comparatively small an area as that dealt with in the present volume, should be free from all errors and omissions, and Mr. Murray will feel grateful for any corrections or additions to the work, which may be addressed to him at 50 Albemarle Street, W., for use in the preparation of any future edition. The above remark applies particularly to hotels and inns, which, changing hands from time to time, are liable to deteriorate or to improve.

B. C. A. W.
January 1897.

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SHROPSHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

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I. PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY.

I. SHROPSHIRE.

Shropshire, as viewed from its physical aspect, is well fitted for its position on the Marches of Wales: the Welsh portion possessing all the features of a mountain-land; the English, of fertile plain and rich farming country. There is so much variety in Salop that it may be considered an epitome of England, for it contains, within the compass of a few miles, all the characteristics of an Alpine district in miniature, while at the same time within sight of orchards, gardens, and farm-houses.

From this very variety of scenery, which of course depends mostly on the geological formation, Shropshire has come to be regarded as a typical district by the geologist, who will find within its borders a complete history of the Palæozoic formation. The mountain region is principally found on the Welsh, or western side. On the S., the Radnorshire hills are continuous with the Forest of Clun, whence the high grounds run, with but little intermission, into the noble range of the Longmynd and the Stiperstones, the latter keeping up the connection with the mountains of Montgomeryshire, and the former abruptly ending at the beautiful valley of Church Stretton. On the

other side of this valley is the equally picturesque, though not so lofty, series of Hope Bowdler, Caradoc, Ragleath, and Lawley, separating the Church Stretton valley from Apedale, which joins it lower down at an acute angle, and is sheltered on the E. by the very characteristic ridge of Wenlock Edge. The latter commences, near Craven Arms, in a series of very striking wooded terraces, and runs diagonally across Shropshire until it is brought up by the great gap of the Severn Valley, near Coalbrook Dale. To the E. of it is Corve Dale, whence hilly, undulating ground extends for the remainder of the distance to the Severn, and even beyond it, to the Staffordshire border. The chief scenic features in this district are the isolated upthrows of the Clee Hills, which are landmarks for many a mile.

The Brown Clee is the most northerly and the highest, and is connected with its fellow, the Titterstone Clee and Hoar Edge, by a ridge, which on one side overlooks Ludlow and the Vale of Teme, on the other the broken country of the Forest of Wyre:

> "Those mountains of commande,
> The Clees, like loving twinnes, and Stitterstone that stand
> Transevered."—*Drayton.*

To the N. of the Stiperstones is the valley of the Rea, and a gradually diminishing series of hills, which merge into the valley of the Severn between Welshpool and Shrewsbury. Generally speaking, the districts N. and E. of the Severn, which cuts Shropshire into two tolerably equal divisions, are of English character, although the surface is repeatedly interrupted by elevations such as the Wrekin and Haughmond Hill. The former is a curved ridge, of somewhat ungainly shape, but with beautiful wood-fringed sides, and sends off to the N. lower spurs to Lilleshall and Donnington, and to the S. those of Coalbrook Dale. Between Wellington and the Cheshire border (the course of the Great Western Railway to Nantwich) is the basin of the Tern, a level, richly cultivated district, broken only by the wooded heights of Hawkstone. The same character of surface is maintained as far as Oswestry, where the ground begins to rise again, the outposts of the great mountain-country of Merionethshire and Denbighshire, which at Sweeny Hill and Llynclys afford scenery of considerable beauty. One great characteristic of the Shropshire plain should be mentioned, viz. its *meres*, some of which are sufficiently large to justify their being called lakes. They are to be found in great numbers, scarcely a parish or gentleman's park being without them. The water-basin of Shropshire is altogether that of the Severn and its tributaries. That noble river itself, in its course through the country, passes through great variety of scenery: from the stately, placid stream between Shrewsbury and Cressage, gliding through rich pastureland, to the fretted rapid between the wooded heights of Coalbrook Dale and Benthall Edge, during which passage its elevation is reduced some 40 ft. The Rea and the Tern are the two principal tributaries in the northern part of the county, the south being watered by the Oney, the Corve, and the Teme, the latter of which does not join the Severn for a considerable distance after it has emerged from Shropshire.

The geology of Shropshire is still more diversified than the scenery

and is of the highest interest to the scientific observer, who may read from its stone volume the condition of the very earliest rocks that form the crust of the earth. Thanks to the labours of Sir Roderick Murchison, the late Mr. Salter, Professor Ramsay, and that hardworking body of local geologists which compose the Woolhope Club, these intricate decipherings have been clearly made out, so that he who runs may read. In the Longmynd we have the representation of some of the oldest rocks in the British Isles, formerly termed Cambrian, but which discoveries of late years appear to assign to a period of greater antiquity, forming, as it were, the axis upon which the more recent fossiliferous strata were deposited. It forms a range of deeply ravined mountains, varying in height from 1,400 ft. to 1,600 ft., and standing boldly out from the neighbouring hills. The lowest beds are formed of clay-slates, interrupted by bosses of eruptive trap-rock, and overlaid by a vast and regular series of hard purple, greenish, and grey and purple flagstones, often finely laminated and ripple-marked. For years and years the bottom rocks of the Longmynd were considered as utterly lifeless, and were pointed to as the zone at which all life, even of the most minute description, ceased; but the diligent researches of the late Mr. Salter revealed at last the presence of annelid burrows, analogous to the lob-worm of the present day. The vast thickness of these rocks was considered by Professor Ramsay to be 26,000 ft.; but Mr. Salter, from subsequent examinations, believed that this computation should be reduced one-half, owing to the doubling of the strata upon themselves. One great feature of the Longmynd is the transverse dells, or "gutters," as they are locally called, the origin of which has given rise to much discussion: some geologists considering that they are the work of river excavation, while others hold that they are due to the action of the sea. The Stiperstones, to the W. of the Longmynd, are so called from a ridge of quartz rocks on their summit, which denotes the division between the Cambrian rocks on the E. slopes and the fossiliferous strata of the so-called Ordovician or Lower Silurian beds on the W. The former are the equivalents of the Tremadoc beds of North Wales; but the rocks immediately on the W. of the Stiperstones are Arenig. They appear to constitute the natural base of the rocks of the Shelve and Corndon district. These Ordovician or Lower Silurian rocks extend over the remaining portion of Shropshire into Montgomeryshire, interrupted only by the outburst of the trap-rocks of Corndon Hill, while beds of volcanic ash are interstratified with Ordovician rocks. On the W. side of the Longmynd, therefore, is a regular sequence of fossiliferous strata; but on the E. a different state of things prevails. Here the Lingula and Llandeilo beds are absent, while the fossiliferous beds of the *Caradoc* or Bala occupy the ground, between which and the Longmynd rocks rise the igneous chains of Ragleath, Hope Bowdler, Caer Caradoc, and Lawley, overlain by strata of Cambrian age and bounded to the W. by a line of fault. By this fault the upper strata have been cut off from the lower, and the Caradoc has been deposited on the edge of the Cambrian and the rocks of higher antiquity. From hence these rocks, with the underlying Cambrian, extend northwards to the Wrekin; southwards, to the valley of the Teme and occupying a portion of that of the Oney, where they

are seen with the overlying May Hill, or *Llandovery* rocks. These latter extend to Buildwas and the base of the Wrekin, and are observable also at Hope, reposing unconformably on rounded bosses of trap and Arenig rock. Another small patch of Llandovery rock is seen at Linley and Norbury, as well as on the E. flank and the S. extremity of the Longmynd. Overlying the Caradoc and Llandovery beds is the *Wenlock*, forming a line of hills that run diagonally across Shropshire from the Severn at Coalbrook Dale to near Ludlow. The ravine of Coalbrook Dale itself is mainly scooped out of Wenlock shale, and its entrance into the Severn valley is guarded by Lincoln Hill, also Wenlock limestone, with carboniferous measures reposing on it.

On the S.E. slopes of Wenlock Edge are the Lower and Upper *Ludlow*, separated by the Aymestry limestone, which is well developed near Stokesay, but thins out towards Wenlock. To the Ludlow beds succeed the *Downton* sandstone and the *Old Red*, the latter of which occupies the area between Corve Dale and a line drawn S. from Bridgnorth through Leasowes, Old Hay, and Harpswood. The cornstone beds, which are local calcareous beds in the Old Red, form notably good wheatland. Southwards, the Old Red is continuous with that of Herefordshire, interrupted only by the Clee Hills. To the N. and W. of Wenlock Edge it has been a good deal denuded and broken up, leaving only some isolated patches, such as Clun Forest. As in Herefordshire, the Old Red of Shropshire is of great interest to the geologist, from the variety of fish remains.

The *carboniferous* measures, though collectively occupying no very large area, are interesting from the character and relations of the subordinate beds. The *Shrewsbury* coalfield extends in a narrow strip, in shape something like a siphon, from the base of Haughmond Hill to Alberbury, on the banks of the upper Severn, a distance of 18 m., and has the peculiarity of possessing neither millstone grit nor mountain limestone, the coalmeasures resting directly on the Silurian and older rocks. Superficially, it is overlaid by Lower Permian strata, containing, as at Alberbury and Cardeston, a remarkable stratified breccia, composed of angular fragments of white quartz and carboniferous limestone, cemented by calcareo-ferruginous paste. The coalfield is chiefly remarkable for the presence of a band of estuarine limestone, with freshwater or brackish shells, which is curiously persistent over a large area, and is always found associated with the upper coalmeasures. As a coalfield the Shrewsbury field is comparatively valueless. The same may be said of the *Lebotwood* field, which extends from the base of Caer Caradoc to the north side of the Longmynd. The *Coalbrook Dale* field is very different, both in interest and value. It is an irregular triangle in form, having its most northerly point at Lilleshall, its most southerly at Coalport, and its base along the valley of the Severn. On the W. it is partly bounded by the fault which lets in the New Red, and on the E. by a narrow strip of Permian. The ravine of Coalbrook Dale itself, as has been observed, is scooped out of Wenlock shale; but the Lightmoor hollow, up which the railway has been carried, is excavated in the lower coalmeasures. The Lightmoor fault traverses the coalfield from N. to S., and has a downthrow of about 100 yds., and to the W. of it the coal-

beds are almost exhausted. E. of these coalmeasures, successful shafts have been sunk through the Permian rocks, and the coal has been found in regular sequence. According to Mr. Hull, the area of the basin was 28 sq. m., and contained 27 ft. of workable coal. That portion where the coalmeasures come to the surface is practically exhausted, but in the E. extension of the field they are being worked at a profit beneath the Permian.

The *Forest of Wyre* coalfield is another of the comparatively unproductive ones. Although superficially of great size, coal can be worked at a profit only in a few scattered localities. It extends from the northern end of the Abberley Hills, near Stourport, in Worcestershire, to several miles beyond Bewdley, narrowing at its northern end to a thin strip bordering the W. bank of the Severn. The coalmeasures repose on the Old Red, and are overlaid by a thick sequence of Permian rocks. The coalfield of the *Clee Hills* is particularly interesting, from the fact of its having been pierced by an outburst of basalt, which has spread over it, and forms the basaltic head of the Titterstone Clee. The measures, two or three in number, are nearly horizontal, and some of the old shafts by which they were reached pierce the basaltic strata. In the case of the Clees, the coal rests on the Old Red, but on the N. and W. sides of the hills are both grit and limestone, the latter, at Oreton and Farlow, being the equivalents of the yellow sandstone, and abounding in fish remains. The carboniferous strata of Shropshire should not be dismissed without mention of Sweeny Hill, near Oswestry, which comes within the geographical pale of the county, though geologically it forms a portion of the Flintshire basin. The millstone grit here is unusually interesting, from its fossiliferous character, a very unusual feature in this formation.

To the coalmeasures succeeds the *Permian*, which is of some economic value in Shropshire, on account of its fringing the coalfields and of the possibility of the underlying coalmeasures being worked through it. To the E. of Coalbrook Dale these beds have been successfully pierced down to the coalmeasures. The breccia which borders the Shrewsbury coalfield is considered by Mr. Hull to be the remnant of an old shingle beach, composed of carboniferous and Silurian rocks.

The *Triassic* occupies nearly all the remaining area of the county, including the district E. of the Severn, between Bridgnorth and Wolverhampton, and that between Shrewsbury, Ellesmere, Newport, and Market Drayton.

Bridgnorth is the best locality for studying the Triassic, very fine sections being met with in the conglomerate, or pebble bed. Between the bounding ridges of Haughmond and the Wrekin is the Triassic basin of the Tern.

There is a small pear-shaped patch of *Lias* between Wem and Audlem, extending for a short distance into Cheshire. The *igneous* rocks have already been mentioned in the respective districts which they have influenced, such as the Clee Hills, Corndon Range, the Caradoc ranges, and the Wrekin. Some of these igneous rocks are of high antiquity, probably pre-Cambrian; such are the volcanic rocks of the Wrekin, Caradoc, Lilleshall, and Pontesford. Others are of much more recent date, such as the Arenig and Bala Ashes W. of the Stiper-

stones, and the intrusive igneous rocks, the Clee Hills, Corndon, and Ketley.

The geologist will find Salop an admirable district for studying the phenomena of the *Glacial Period, drift gravels*, sands, and clays. Over the whole of the county are distributed large numbers of erratics, which are especially predominant in the district N. of the Severn, but are very sparse upon the Longmynd and its borders. These seem to have their origin in two sources—viz. 1. The S. of Scotland and the Lake District; 2. Arenig mountains of N. Wales. The basin of the Tern, too, shows deposits of low-level gravel.

The geologist visiting Shropshire should study Sir R. Murchison's "Siluria," Prestwich's "Coalbrook Dale" (Trans. Geol. Soc.), the "Transactions of the Woolhope Field Club," Eyton's "Denudation of Shropshire," and the various memoirs published in the "Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society" and by the Geologists' Association. See particularly a paper (1894) by Lapworth and Watts with bibliography.

Localities interesting to the Geologist.

The *Longmynd.*—Longmyndian rocks at Church Stretton, Cardingmill section. Arenicolites.

Stiperstones.—Quartzites.

Shelve.—Fossiliferous and Arenig rocks.

Corndon Mountain.—Intrusive dolorites with fossiliferous Llandello rocks.

Llandello and Bala (all fossiliferous) at *Rorrington*, *Snailbeach*, *Middletown*, *Marnington Dingle.*

All this district can be best explored by staying at the Miner's Arms, Minsterley.

Caradoc beds at *Cardington*, *Chatwall*, and *Soudley.*

Caradoc of *Marshbrook*, *Acton Scott.*

Oney River (Craven Arms).—Caradoc strata overlaid by Llandovery rocks. Beds at *Horderley* and *Cheney Longville.*

Wenlock shales and limestone at *Coalbrook Dale.* *Benthall Edge* and *Wenlock Edge* very fossiliferous.

Ludlow Rocks and Bone-bed, Downton Sandstone near *Ludlow*, *Mary Knoll*, *Leintwardine*, *Pedwardine* (starfishes), &c.

Old Red Cornstones, with Pteraspis, Cephalaspis, and Eurypterus, near *Ludlow*, *Whitbatch*, *Hopton*, *Bouldon*, *Downton.*

Yellow Sandstone at *Farlow*, plants, and fish remains.

Mountain Limestone at *Oreton*, with fish teeth; at *Wrekin* (corals); and at *Sweeny Hill.*

Millstone grit (fossiliferous) at *Llynclys.*

Clee Hills.—Coalmeasures, overlaid by Basalt.

Coalbrook Dale.—Coalmeasures and ironstones; very productive in coal fossils.

Shrewsbury Coalfield, near Pontesbury, with freshwater limestone.

Limestone, with Spirorbis, at *Linley.*

Permian rocks, bordering the E. of the Coalbrook Dale field.

Permian breccia at *Alberbury* and *Cardeston.*

Triassic of *Bridgnorth.*
Lias between *Wem* and *Audlem.*
Drift (glacial) at *Strethill*, near Buildwas.
River terraces and gravel drifts at *Arley.*
Low-level gravels at *Crudgington*, and the valley of the *Tern.*

II. CHESHIRE.

The chance traveller by rail from Crewe to Birkenhead, during his progress through Cheshire will, generally speaking, carry away with him a low estimate of its scenic beauty and interest; but for all that, there is much in the county that is charmingly picturesque, although it lies somewhat out of the beaten track of tourists, and requires searching for.

Cheshire may be described as a great plain, set in a frame of high ground, which in many localities offers views of a high order, although the component parts are not on a large scale. But even the plain, though exceedingly level, contains all the pleasant and sunny features of English pastoral life; while nowhere is the view so circumscribed as not to be relieved by the distant hills, which, if not so rich in the peculiar treasures of the plain, possess others of different kind and value. To the E. a wild elevated district separates Cheshire from Derby and Staffordshire, extending from the valley of the Goyt, and forming the rugged country of Macclesfield Forest and Shutlingslow, to the S. of which the line is continued by Cloud Hill, Congleton Edge, and Mow Cop. The southern portion of Cheshire is continuous with the fertile pastures of Shropshire, but the western setting of the frame is furnished by the Peckforton range, and the high grounds that mark the course of the Dee. The Delamere Forest, one of the prettiest alternations of hill and woodland to be found in England, is almost the only break in the great central plain, and even this soon merges into the hills and defiles that fringe the Mersey estuary from Alvanley to Frodsham and Runcorn, and gradually die away as the Lancashire border is approached near Bowdon. Cheshire possesses two outlying districts, those of Wirral and Longdendale, which, as seen on the map, look very much like the respective handles of the casket. Nevertheless they are extremely unlike each other, Wirral being marked by a tolerably uniform level, broken only by the hillocks of Bidston and Storeton, while Longdendale is characterised by the lofty hills and moorlands of the Pennine range.

With the exception of the Dee, which, though it enters the sea after a short course through Cheshire, is properly a Welsh rather than a Cheshire river, the water basin is entirely formed by the millstone grit plateau that bounds the North Staffordshire and Derbyshire coalfields. From its recesses issue the Tame and the Goyt, which, with their united waters, form the commerce-laden bosom of the Mersey. Hence also rise the Bollin, the Wheelock, and the Dane, the two latter helping to swell the volume of the Weaver, which, rising in the Shropshire plain, has a somewhat stagnant, though very valuable, career through the salt-bearing districts.

The oldest rocks that enter into the geological composition of the county belong to the carboniferous formation, and are chiefly *millstone grit*, with their subordinate beds. The *limestone* is principally represented by the Yoredale rocks that form the ridges of Bosley Minn and its neighbourhood, and are again seen further north at Staleybridge and the Saddleworth valley, where they are 2,000 ft. thick. On the N.W. side of Mow Cop the shale and limestone crop out at Newbold Astbury, the effects of an anticlinal line that runs along the ridge. To the N. are the high grounds of Macclesfield Forest, extending as far as Longdendale and into Yorkshire. The conical hill of Shutlingslow, the bold elevation of Cloud Hill, and the rugged escarpment of Congleton Edge, are all formed of different beds of these grits and their associated shaly beds, which, as they approach Yorkshire, are developed on a large scale, though the scenery is not so varied.

There are four different beds of grit, with shales between each. The whole series is seen at Mottram, 3,000 ft. thick, but in their course southward they thin out more or less, until they disappear altogether in Staffordshire. The second bed cannot be traced further S. than Shutlingslow, but at Cloud Hill the first, third, and fourth grits are seen—the first, known as the Rough Rock, forming the base of the coalmeasures; while to the third the hill owes its massive character. Immediately on the other side of Congleton Edge is the most northerly limit of the North Staffordshire coalfield, known as the Biddulph trough, which is formed by two beds of grit passing underneath the coalmeasures, and cropping out on the Edge and Mow Cop.

The *Coalmeasures* that form the southern portion of the Cheshire, or more properly the Lancashire coalfield, are underlain by the Rough Rock, and are worked between Stockport and Macclesfield to within half a mile of the latter town. They are here superficially covered by the Boulder clay, and soon pass under the river, taking a N.W. dip and being overlaid by the Permian. In the neighbourhood of Macclesfield the collieries are not of so much importance as they are nearer to the Lancashire border, where some of the pits, and notably that of Dukinfield, are among the deepest in England. The carboniferous beds are much disturbed all through the district. The valley of the Goyt itself is formed by a synclinal line towards which the coalbeds dip E. and W. An anticlinal passes between Mellor and Marple, and can be traced as far as Forest Chapel, where it splits into two, the coalbeds rising towards it from the Goyt trough on the E. and the Cheshire plain on the W. One branch of this saddle passes to the E. of Shutlingslow, which is capped with millstone grit and shows the limestone cropping out on the N.E. The other runs down S. to Cloud Hill and Mow Cop, where it exposes the shales at Newbold Astbury as before mentioned. It finally disappears at Madeley, where the Bunter sandstone wraps round the extremity of the Potteries coalfield.

With the exception of a small portion of that pear-shaped *Lias* patch between Wem and Audlem, and some *Permian* beds at Norbury near Stockport, the whole of the remainder of Cheshire consists of *Keuper beds* and the underlying Bunter sandstone, the intermediate

Muschelkalk being entirely wanting in this county, as elsewhere in England. The waterstones (Lower Keuper) are seen 2 m. S. of Macclesfield in close contact with the lower coalmeasures, and also in the course of the Bollin between Quarry Bank and Bowdon.

A considerable dislocation runs from Leek in Staffordshire past Bosley to Rosthern and Lymm, forming the N.E. boundary of the Cheshire saltfield. To the S. of Cheshire the Upper Red Marls extend along the base of Congleton Edge and Mow Cop, where they are in contact with the carboniferous limestone, and thence continue southwards to Madeley and Audlem, though much covered by drift. The district between Malpas (at the S.W. corner of the Peckforton Hills) and Congleton is a trough or broad valley of gypseous and saliferous beds of the Keuper—in other words the Great Cheshire Saltfield—extending thence to Northwich and embracing all the principal salt-works which lie more or less near the banks of the rivers Weaver and Wheelock. The most easterly place where salt has been found is at Lawton, on the Staffordshire border, where the gypseous beds are brought in contact with the coal. The following are some of the heights compared with the sea-level at which salt has been found (Ormerod, "Geol. Soc. Journal"):

Lawton	Rock-salt	290	feet	above sea-level
Northwich	,,	55	,,	,, ,,
Winsford	,,	90	,,	,, ,,
Marston	,,	27	,,	,, ,,
Wheelock	Brine	3	,,	below ,,
,,	,,	93	,,	above ,,
Middlewich	,,	120	,,	,, ,,
Frodsham	,,	250	,,	,, ,,

The rock-salt occurs for the most part in two beds. At Winsford the upper bed is 120 ft. thick, and at Northwich about 90, the salt being impure in each case. Below it is a bed of indurated clay called "Stone" (33 to 36 ft.), succeeded by the second bed, the lower portion of which is the great repository from which the rock-salt supplies are drawn. To the N. of Northwich, salt is not found further than Budworth and Pickmere, both of which pools are probably due to the subsidences of the surface from the dissolving of the salt-beds underneath.

To the E. of Cheshire, the same fault which cuts off the salt-field has taken great effect at Alderley Edge, on one side of which are seen the Lower Keuper beds with strata bearing copper in small quantity, and on the other the Bunter sandstone. The latter is seen also at Timperley—along the valley of the Bollin—and again underlying the terrace ridge from Hoo Green by Leigh to Lymm, and on to Hill Cliff near Warrington. Thence it fringes the Red Marl all round by Runcorn, Frodsham, nearly to Tarporley, forming the ranges of the Peckforton Hills, Beeston Rock, and the rising ground on the banks of the Dee.

In Wirral the Upper Red and variegated sandstones of the Bunter are frequently seen, overlaid by the Keuper. These beds are of peculiar interest to the fossil collector from the occurrence of Cheirotherium footsteps at various localities (*e.g.* Storeton). The

thickness of the Trias in Cheshire has been estimated as follows:

Gypseous and Saliferous beds	700 feet
Waterstones	400 „
Bunter Sandstone	600 „
	1,700 „

Few counties afford better opportunities for studying the *drift* than Cheshire. All over the S. the Triassic strata are more or less covered by it, but the level character of the country does not offer many sections. However, the ravine-like nature of the district round Macclesfield and Stockport allows the boulder clay and valley gravels containing shells to be seen to great perfection.

Localities interesting to the Geologist.

Limestone and shales of *Newbold Astbury*.

Millstone grit at *Mow Cop* and *Cloud Hill*.

Coalmeasure shales, with goniatites at *Dukinfield*, on the banks of the Tame.

Keuper beds (copper-bearing) at *Alderley Edge* and *Mottram St. Andrew's*.

Triassic strata at *Lymm*, *Daresbury*, *Weston* near Runcorn, *Tarporley*, and *Storeton Hill*, all containing foot-tracks of Cheirotherium.

Salt-mines at *Northwich*, *Marston*, and *Winsford*.

Drift (boulder clay and gravels) at *Macclesfield*, where great numbers of shells were found at the cemetery.

Drift beds at *Bredbury*, near Stockport (marine shells).

"Till" at *Hyde*.

Deposits near *Birkenhead*.

Forest beds at *Leasowes*.

Glaciation marks at *Bidston Hill* and elsewhere.

The Flora of Mid-Cheshire is intermediate between that of the N. and S. counties of Britain. E. of Macclesfield that of the high ground is akin to the West Riding of Yorkshire, while in the W. the botany of Wirral is more various and southern in character. The marl-pits and inland meres of Mid-Cheshire render it almost *sui generis* for aquatic plants and reeds.

II. INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES.

I. SHROPSHIRE.

Although Shropshire cannot be included among the manufacturing counties, it contains within its boundaries a very fair share of the economic riches of the earth, about half of its population being engaged in specific trades and pursuits, while the other half is supported by agriculture.

The metalliferous mines are nearly all found in the mountainous portion of the county, between Bishop's Castle and Minsterley. The district which yields them has long been known for its mineral wealth. "In 1190 Richard I. granted a charter conveying the 'Forest of Tene-

frestanes' to the Baron of Caus ; and there are so many references to the lead found in the neighbourhood as to prove that the veins were extensively worked in the 13th and 14th cent. In Eyton's 'Antiquities of Shropshire,' cartloads of lead are spoken of; but whether lead-ore or pure lead is not stated, though it is certain that smelting operations were performed near the mines."—*Morton.* Mining implements of Roman age, together with a pig of lead, were found near Snead, at the bottom of a trench called the Roman Vein, which is the most valuable vein in the district.

Lead has been for many years obtained from the Snailbeach and other mines. The quantity of ore raised in 1893 was 1,800 tons ; this produced 1,382 tons of lead, valued at 11,171*l.*

Copper has been found at Westcott and Clive, on the N. side of Grinshill, where it was worked in horizontal beds in the Triassic strata as at Alderley, Cheshire (Rte. 14), and not in lodes as at Cornwall. In addition to the lead, the Stiperstone mines yield zinc-ore and barytes, of which 5,852 tons, valued at 5,119*l.*, were raised in 1893. The other productions, which are only valuable to the mineralogist, consist of quartz, chalcedony, calcite, witherite, malachite, redruthite, galena, minium, etc.

Iron ore, in the shape of argillaceous carbonate and blackband, is largely worked in the neighbourhood of Coalbrook Dale, Madeley, Lilleshall, and the coal-basin generally. In 1893, 54,596 tons were raised, the value of which was 27,298*l.* Ten blast furnaces, of which half were in blast, during the same year produced 39,514 tons of pig-iron.

The Shropshire *Coalfield* is described in the section dealing with Geology. During the year 1893 636,628 tons of coal were raised, valued at 254,651*l.*

The minor manufacturing industries of Shropshire are few, and include pottery and tobacco pipes, a very old-established trade at Broseley; an important encaustic tile manufactory, carried on at Benthall; earthenware and china at Coalport ; carpets at Bridgnorth. There is much valuable building stone in the county. That of Grinshill, between Shrewsbury and Wem, on the New Red sandstone, has been largely used for churches, public buildings, and gentlemen's seats. Limestone of good quality is quarried at Oreton, and valuable road-metal is obtained from the "Dhu Stone" of the Clee Hills.

The county of Salop, however important may be its several branches of manufacture, ranks rather amongst the agricultural counties of England, and in this respect more as a grazing than a corn-growing district. For this, the large extent of New and Old Red sandstone that prevails renders it fitting, the land of the W., approaching the Welsh borders, being hilly and poor. Amongst the local peculiarities of the cattle, it may be mentioned that the Bishop's Castle neighbourhood is celebrated for a good breed of cattle of dark red colour, whilst the district known as the Forest of Clun yields good mountain ponies, and a small breed of sheep, the mutton of which is highly prized by bon vivants.

The corn crops consist of wheat, barley, oats, beans, and peas; and the principal green crop is that of swedes.

II. CHESHIRE

may fairly be divided into half manufacturing and half agricultural interest, and possesses almost a monopoly of two of England's most valuable industries—salt and silk. As a metalliferous county, its only product is copper, formerly worked somewhat extensively in the Keuper formation of the New Red sandstone at Alderley Edge, where it is found not in lodes, as in Cornwall, but in horizontal cupriferous beds. In addition to the copper, occur ores of cobalt, manganese, carbonate of lead, galena, barytes, and oxide of iron. The carbonate of lead is in the shape of crystals, disseminated through the rock, and is separated from the matrix by maceration and washing when it is ready for smelting. The cobalt and manganese are found and treated in the same way, and the water used in the working of them is allowed to settle, when the red or yellow ochre, of which it is full, subsides and is then smelted for the iron that it contains. "The process by which the copper is separated from the sand, and thrown down in a metallic state, is very beautiful, and probably the only one by which the result could be accomplished successfully in a commercial point of view, as its average percentage of ore is not more than 2·5. The rock is macerated in a solution of muriatic acid, then filtered; and the 'copper liquor,' of a rich deep green, is pumped into reservoirs of wood. Into these old scrap-iron is thrown, and the acid, leaving the copper, seizes the iron, which it dissolves, while the copper is precipitated in a metallic state. On the completion of the process the residuum, consisting of 80 parts of copper and 20 of iron, is collected and sent in sacks to St. Helens and Swansea to be smelted."—*Hull.*

Fireclay was raised to the extent of 12,568 tons in 1894.

As a coal-producing district, Cheshire does not rank high, although a very considerable portion of the county is occupied by the coal-measures, extending from Wildboar Clough, by Macclesfield and Stockport, into Lancashire. At Dukinfield there is a pit of the extraordinary depth of 2,150 ft. To scientific men this pit was specially interesting, for in it was taken a series of observations as to temperature at increasing depths of mines. It was found that 51° was the invariable temperature throughout the year at a depth of 17 ft., and that for every 83·2 ft. there was an increase of 1°.

Salt.—The geological features of the salt district of the Triassic or New Red sandstone are detailed on page [17]. The salt trade is altogether confined to a few localities, and is largely in the hands of the recently formed "Salt Union." For description of mines at Northwich, the tourist must refer to Rte. 21, where an account of the process of manufacture is also given.

In 1894, 138,277 tons of rock salt were raised, the value of which was 35,686*l.* The salt obtained from brine amounted to 1,445,365 ons, value 484,479*l.*

With *building stone* Cheshire is fairly supplied, the chief, indeed the only quarries being in the New Red sandstone, the millstone grit and coalmeasure sandstones. Of the former the best known are the quarries at Bidston, Flaybrick, Weston, Frodsham, and Storeton.

Mow Cop and Congleton Edge yield a first-class stone from the millstone grit; Kerridge and Five Ashes from the coalmeasures.

In *agriculture* Cheshire has long held a high position for the richness of its pastures and its splendid dairy farms, the average size of which is from 50 to 150 acres. "The effect of the dairy husbandry may be observed all through the county. Land is ploughed in order to bear winter fodder for cattle, and to improve pastures overrun with cows. The sheep husbandry, which is so profitable to the farmers in other counties, is scarcely known in Cheshire. Sheep do not go well with cows, as they pick out the finest herbage before it is long enough for the cows to graze. Some few are kept to consume the grasses which the cows refuse; they are seldom kept over the year, and are sold as soon as any profit is realised. Grass-land is considered so much more valuable than arable, that most leases contain a clause that not more than one-fourth of the farm shall be ploughed. A soil which is rather stiff is considered the best for grass, especially if there be a substratum of marl, which is the case in many parts of the county. A very rich loam is not considered so good for pastures where cheese is made as one less fertile, as it is apt to make the cheese heave."

The portion of the county which lies in proximity to the great cities and towns is valuable for market gardens, and immense quantities of vegetables are grown; the neighbourhood of Frodsham being famous for its potatoes, and Altrincham for its carrots and onions. The former, indeed, is so celebrated, that it is known as the Altrincham or greentop carrot.

Of manufactures, one of the most important is that of *silk*, which is almost a Cheshire specialty. In the towns at the north-east portion of the county, such as Stockport, Hyde, Dukinfield, Mottram, &c., cotton-spinning is the staple employment; but in Macclesfield, Congleton, and the villages surrounding, such as Sutton, Langley, Bollington, Rainow, &c., nearly all the population is devoted to silk, although the trade is not such a very old one, the first silk mill being established in Macclesfield only in 1756, and in Congleton still later. Silk in the state of cocoons is principally supplied to this country from Japan and China, though of late years the planting of mulberry trees and the rearing of the silkworn has been largely carried on on the Continent, and is very soon likely to become an important branch of industry in England through the agency of the Silk Supply Association. Curiously enough, when it arrives in the raw state in England, it has to be sent to France or Italy to be reeled, there being no body of factory operatives who have hitherto been taught how to reel silk, although instruction in this necessary branch is likewise in contemplation. The raw silk, when properly reeled, consists of a delicate continuous thread formed by an aggregate of the fine silkworm filaments, and it becomes needful, before it can be made sufficiently hard for the purposes of the weaver, to give it into the hands of the silk *thrower*, or throwster. Many silk throwers are also silk manufacturers, but for a considerable period, and particularly when Spitalfields was the chief locale of the trade, it was a separate branch. The operation, which requires some complex machinery, consists in spinning and twisting the silk into a coherent and continuous thread. "In plain silk-weaving the process is much the

same as that for weaving woollen or linen, but the weaver is assisted by a machine for the even distribution of the warp, which frequently consists of 8,000 separate threads in a width of 20 inches. Satin derives its lustre from the great proportion of the warp being left visible, and the piece being afterwards passed over heated cylinders. The pile, which constitutes the peculiarity of velvet, is produced by the insertion of short pieces of silk thread, which cover the surface so entirely as to conceal the interlacings of the warp and the weft."

The manufacture of cotton is also extensively carried on in the N.E. towns, and other businesses are those of worsted, woollen, boots, and hats. Shipbuilding is carried on on the Mersey, with the manufacture of ropes and sail-cloth.

III. COMMUNICATIONS.

I. SHROPSHIRE.

For an agricultural district few counties are better supplied with facilities for travelling than Salop, mainly owing to its being on the high-road between South Wales and Lancashire on the one hand, London and North Wales on the other.

The Great Western and London and North-Western systems supply the county for the most part. Access from South Wales is given by the jointly worked line of the *Hereford*, *Ludlow* and *Shrewsbury*. From this a branch is thrown off (Great Western Rly.) from *Wooferton*, to *Tenbury* and *Bewdley*, there joining the Severn Valley. A second cross connection is given by the branch from *Craven Arms* to *Wenlock* and *Buildwas*, while to the W. runs from the same junction (Craven Arms) the short line to *Bishop's Castle*, and the important trunk rly. of the *Central Wales*, to Knighton, Llandrindod, Llandovery, Caermarthen, and Swansea. A direct route is thus opened from Manchester and Liverpool to the western parts of South Wales. The *Severn Valley* follows the course of that river from Worcester, or rather Hartlebury Junct., entering Shropshire at Bewdley, and running by Bridgnorth to Ironbridge and Shrewsbury. At Buildwas it is joined by the *Coalbrook Dale* and *Wellington* line, which, together with the *Wolverhampton*, *Wellington* and *Shrewsbury* Rly., accommodates the Shropshire coalfield. The remainder of this busy district is served by the London and North-Western, a portion of which, the *Shropshire Union*, connects Stafford with Newport, Wellington, and Shrewsbury. A subsidiary branch of the same company bisects the coalfield to *Coalport*, near Ironbridge.

So much for the southern portion of the county; but once past Shrewsbury the two great systems diverge, each going its own way. The Great Western has a route to Manchester by the *Wellington*, *Market Drayton* and *Nantwich* line, and on to *Chester* and *Birkenhead* through *Oswestry* (Gobowen Junct.) and *Chirk*. The London and North-Western line runs from Shrewsbury to *Wem*, *Whitchurch*, *Nantwich*, and *Crewe*. Another branch of the London and North-Western shortens by way of Malpas and Tattenhall the route between Whitchurch and Chester. At *Whitchurch* the *Cambrian* system,

which is worked in harmony with the London and North-Western Company, commences by a line to *Ellesmere* and *Whittington*, thence to Oswestry and Aberystwith through Montgomeryshire. Another section of the same line runs direct from *Shrewsbury* to join the main line at *Welshpool*, throwing off a short branch to *Minsterley*.

Canals.—The local canals in Shropshire are: The *Shrewsbury* Canal, which starts from the Severn near that town, and runs N. of Wellington through the coal district to Coalport. The latter portion was the original Shropshire Canal, the first ever made in the county. A branch is sent off from near Eyton, past Newport, to join the *Birmingham and Liverpool* Canal, which is carried near the N.E. boundary to Market Drayton and Nantwich. The *Chester and Ellesmere* Canal serves as a waterway to the N.W. corner, and is remarkable for the gigantic works on its course. Its different ramifications are these: "A branch passes northward near Ellesmere, Whitchurch, Nantwich, and the city of Chester to Ellesmere Port on the Mersey (Rte. 25); another in a S.E. direction, through the middle of Shropshire towards Shrewsbury on the Severn; and a third, in a south-westerly direction, by the town of Oswestry to the Montgomeryshire Canal near Llanymynàch—its whole extent, including the Chester Canal incorporated with it, being about 112 miles."—*Smiles.* Telford's greatest works on this canal were the Chirk aqueduct over the Ceiriog (Rte. 9), and Pontcysylltau over the Dee, near Llangollen. Telford was also the engineer of the Shrewsbury Canal, the work of which was so far interesting that a new principle was adopted by him in his bridges. Writing in 1795, he says: "Although this canal is only 18 miles long, yet there are many important works in its course, several locks, a tunnel about half a mile long, and two aqueducts. For the most considerable of these I have just recommended an aqueduct of *iron*. It has been approved, and will be executed under my direction, upon a principle entirely new, and which I am endeavouring to establish with regard to the application of iron."

II. CHESHIRE.

The systems that give railway accommodation to Cheshire are the London and North-Western, Great Western, Cheshire Midland, Midland, Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire, and the North Staffordshire. The most important of them is the *London and North-Western*, which, entering the county near Crewe, its great manufacturing junction, sends radiations northwards like a fan, that on the right running to Alderley, Stockport, and Manchester, and being crossed at Sandbach by the line from the Potteries to Middlewich and Northwich, which at the last-named place meets the line from Chester, through Knutsford, to Manchester. The middle line is the great trunk line between London and Scotland, and runs through the most fertile portion of Cheshire to Hartford Bridge and Warrington. A branch from Whitchurch by Tattenhall to Chester makes the shortest route from Shrewsbury to Chester. The direct Liverpool line branches off to Runcorn, where it crosses the Mersey (Rte. 18). The left wing of the fan is formed by the Chester and Holyhead, an equally important

trunk line to Ireland. The same company have a branch from the Potteries, through Stockport to Macclesfield, and thence by Cheadle and Stockport to Manchester. The Manchester and Buxton line enters the county on the extreme E., and has a course of a few miles from Whaley Bridge to Stockport. The Great Western obtains access to Manchester and Liverpool through Cheshire. It enters the county on the W. at Gresford, and at Chester bifurcates—to the N.W. running through the district of Wirrall to Birkenhead, where ferry boats are in constant activity to the opposite shore—to the N.E. to Frodsham and Warrington, whence the company has running powers over the London and North-Western rails to Manchester. Two other lines are in the Wirral peninsula, one from Helsby to Horton, the second from the latter to Neston, Hoylake, New Brighton, and Birkenhead.

The *Cheshire Midland* principally accommodates the salt districts, which until of late years were without any railways at all. It commences at Altrincham, where it takes up the running from a short line called the *Manchester South Junction* and *Altrincham*, and then plunges into the heart of Cheshire to Knutsford and Northwich, Delamere, Tarvin, and Chester. It thence runs to Winsford in one direction, to Winnington in another, and to Frodsham in a third, so that all the saline districts are put into direct communication with one another, as also with their port.

The *Midland* Company has only a short course through Cheshire. It approaches Manchester from Buxton, entering the county at Marple, and keeping close to the E. boundary, at the corner of which it joins the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Rly. The Midland obtains a share of the silk district traffic by a short branch from Marple, through Bollington and Macclesfield.

The *Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire* is what we may term a border line. A portion of its main line from Manchester to Hull runs through the eastern handle of Cheshire, sending off a branch to Hyde and Stockport, and serving the factory districts of Mottram and Glossop. From Stockport it obtains an entry to Liverpool by means of a line through Cheadle, Lymm, Warrington, Widnes, and Garston, the greater portion of which runs (as far as Warrington) on the S. bank of the Mersey. This rly. is, however, a sort of "highway of nations," as it is used also by the Midland, London and North-Western, and by the *North Staffordshire*, which finds its principal customers in the silk district. It starts from Crewe *en route* for the Potteries, but at Harecastle sends an important branch to the N. to Congleton and Macclesfield. By means of this line Manchester and Macclesfield obtain another and independent route to London.

Canals.—The *Manchester Ship Canal* traverses parts of Cheshire, and had cost, when opened in 1894, £11,750,000. The work was commenced in 1887. It is 35½ m. in length, consisting of 4 long docks with 5 sets of locks; and 23 m., from Runcorn to Manchester, has been formed by making a straight and deep channel for the united streams of the Mersey and Irwell. The lower section of the canal, from Eastham to Runcorn, forms a curved line of 12 m. along the Cheshire shore of the estuary of the Mersey, joining at Western Point the mouth of the navigable river Weaver. The depth of the canal is 26 ft., the various

locks raising its level on the whole to 60 ft. above the level of the sea. The minimum width at the bottom is 120 ft., or 48 ft. wider than the bottom of the Suez Canal; and for a distance of 3½ m. on approaching Manchester the bottom width is 170 ft., so that ships can lie along the bank without interfering with the fairway. Several railway lines cross the canal by lofty viaducts, giving a clear headway of 75 ft. above the water. The district affected by the canal contains over 150 important towns, 100 of which have a population of over 10,000, and in 11 of these the population exceeds 100,000. The total population may be taken at 7,500,000, and the district is rich in minerals and great industries.—*Kelly.*

The *Grand Trunk* Canal, before the age of railways one of the first means of communication that existed in Central England, enters Cheshire from Staffordshire, near Lawton or Harecastle, and thence traverses the salt districts of Wheelock, Winsford, and Northwich, to Preston Brook, where it joins the *Bridgewater* Canal system. This enters the county at Ashton near Stretford, and follows the course of the Mersey to Lymm. It leaves Warrington to the rt., and enters the high-grounds in the North of Cheshire, forming a junction at Preston Brook with the Grand Trunk. It has its final termination at Runcorn, the scene of one of Brindley's finest works (Rte. 25). The *Mersey and Irwell* Canal is a short cut between Warrington and Runcorn, so as to obviate the windings of the river. One of the most important and valuable water communications in Cheshire is the river Weaver.

The *Chester and Nantwich* Canal enters the county near Audlem, and runs to Chester, where it forms a junction with the Dee, and also with the *Dee and Mersey* Canal, the termination of which is Ellesmere Port on the Mersey. A branch is sent off to Middlewich, and another to Whitchurch. The *Macclesfield* Canal starts from the Grand Junction at Harecastle, and runs to Congleton, Macclesfield, and Marple, where it unites with the *Peak Forest* Canal, between Whaley Bridge and Guide Bridge. It will be seen therefore that Cheshire is amply supplied with railway and canal accommodation.

IV. HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES.

I. SHROPSHIRE.

The history of Shropshire is of great interest to the antiquary on account of the abundant remains that are scattered over the county. "The customary names of the shire and county town appear to date from the beginning of the 11th cent. only, for Lappenberg mentions, on the authority of Ellis, that Scrob, a knight on the Welsh Marches, held lands under King Edward the Confessor in Hereford, Worcester, and Salop. No doubt he found it very desirable to restore and maintain the ancient fort on the hill at the stream top: very possibly he so enlarged and improved it, that it came to be called Scrobbesbyrig instead of Salopesbyrig; and it may be noticed that one pronunciation of the town's name, Shro'sbury, closely approximates to the knight's, and there is also a close resemblance between Scrobshire and Shropshire."—*Athenæum.*

The Severn appears to have been the dividing line between the British tribes of the Cornavii on the W. and the Ordovices on the E., while a portion of the southern district was inhabited by the Silures; but after the subjugation of the Celtic principalities by the Roman arms, the county was included in the province of Flavia Cæsariensis. There seems to be little doubt that the victorious forces of Ostorius Scapula penetrated into Shropshire and finally overcame within its boundaries the British king Caractacus, although the actual site of the battle is *adhuc sub judice*. Of the Roman occupation we have most interesting traces, and particularly of the period of the decline of their tenancy in Britain. From its position as a border county Shropshire obtained from a very early date a reputation of being unsafe as a residence, on account of the exposure of its western border to the savage tribes of the Welsh mountains. It was, to cite a writer on land measurement of the time of Nerva, an "ager arcifinius," a border district, and from the necessity that existed of checking the encroachments of its wild neighbours, it became garnished with a series of forts, many of which in the Norman time were of great strength and importance. These border limits were called the Marches, and the Barons who held the properties were entitled Lords Marchers, who, says Camden, "exercised within their respective liberties a sort of Palatinate jurisdiction, and held courts of justice to determine controversies among their neighbours, and prescribed for several privileges and immunities, one of which was that the King's writs should not run here in some causes. But notwithstanding that, whatever controversies arose concerning the right of Lordship or their extent, such were only determinable in the King's courts of justice. We find these styled formerly Marchiones de Marchiâ Walliæ, Marquises of the Marches of Wales, as appears by the 'Red Book' in the Exchequer, where we read that at the coronation of Queen Eleanor, consort to Henry III., these Lords Marchers of Wales, viz. John Fitz-Alan, Ralph de Mortimer, John de Monmouth, and Walter de Clifford, in behalf of the Marches, did claim in their right to provide silver spears and bring them to support the square canopy of purple silk at the coronation of the Kings and Queens of England."

Later on, the jurisdiction of the Marches assumed a much higher and more important character, it being considered as one of the rights and honours of the Princes of Wales to hold special Courts, either in their own persons or through their deputies, the Lords President of Wales. Ludlow became a royal residence and the centre of these Courts, which were held with great splendour until 1688, when the office of President was abolished. The 13th and 14th cents. were stirring ones for Shropshire, on account of the irruptions of the Welsh under Llewelyn and the insurgent Barons. Parliaments were held at Shrewsbury for the trial of Dafydd, the last native prince of Wales, and later on (temp. Richard II.) of Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, who was impeached by Henry of Bolingbroke, afterwards Henry IV. Owain Glyndwr was the last who troubled the peace of the county to any serious extent; but the battle of Shrewsbury (1403) terminated fatally for his hopes and those of the Earl of Northumberland.

During the Civil Wars Shropshire generally was a staunchly royalist

county, and Charles I. had many occasions to feel grateful for contributions of men and money, and for personal shelter. The various incidents which make up the interest of the history of Shropshire will be found under their respective localities.

There are a fair number of circles, tumuli, &c. in the sequestered and hilly districts. There are some tumuli in the parish of Woolstaston (Rte. 1), and others in a field near Staunton Lacey (Rte. 1) and elsewhere. There is a fine menhir in the Clun district (Rte. 5).

Circles are found only near Stapeley Hill (Rte. 8), viz. the Marsh Pool Circle, the Whetstones, and Mitchell's Fold, all grouped together.

Camps and earthworks are tolerably numerous, and are placed just where we should expect to find them, guarding defiles of valleys and the passages of rivers. The figures denote the routes under which they are mentioned :

Route

3. Abdon Burf, near Ludlow. Date uncertain.
9. Belan Bank, Alberbury. British. Guarding the passage of the Vyrnwy.
10. Berth Hill, Baschurch. Anglo-Saxon.
1. Bodbury Ring, Church Stretton. British.
1. Brockhurst. Saxon.
5. Bury Ditches, Clun. Probably British.
13. Bury Walls, Hawkstone. British.
1. Caer Caradoc, Church Stretton. } Both British.
5. Caer Caradoc, Knighton. }
10. Castell Brogyntyn, Oswestry. British.
1. Castle Ring, Church Stretton. British.
3. Caynham Camp, Ludlow. Roman.
3. Clee Burf, Ludlow. Uncertain.
6. Ditches, Wenlock. British.
8. Ebury Camp, Shrewsbury. Anglo-Saxon.
5. Habberley Camp, Minsterley. British.
3. Nordy Bank, Ludlow. Roman.
1. Norton Camp, Craven Arms. Roman (?).
10. Old Oswestry. British.
4. Quatford, Bridgnorth. Anglo-Saxon.
5. Snead Camp, } Bishop's Castle. British.
5. Simond's Castle, }
3. Titterstone Camp, Ludlow. Uncertain.
3. The Walls. Roman.
7. Wrekin earthworks, Wellington. British.

Traces of the Roman occupation are obvious, not only in the camps marked as Roman, but in the magnificent remains of Uriconium (Wroxeter, Rte. 8), which are the most extensive of the kind in England. The other Salopian town of this era was Ruyton of the XI Towns, at which antiquaries have placed the ancient Rutunium (Rte. 10); and there was another place called Uxacona or Uxiconium, about which they are not agreed, some placing it at Red Hill, some to the N.W. of Shiffnal, others, with most probability, at Oaken Gates. Wherever it was, it was an unimportant place. As Shropshire lay in

the direct routes between Deva (Chester) on the north, and Isca Silurum (Caerleon) and Venta Silurum (Caerwent) in South Wales, several Roman roads ran across the county. The Watling Street entered it from the Staffordshire side, in its course from Pennocrucium (Penkridge) to Uxacona, while another branch ran southwards from Uriconium down the Church Stretton valley on its way to Magna (Kenchester) and Bravinium (near Leintwardine). The *Portway* (Rte. 1) was a British road between Billing's Ring and Castle Hill, near Leebotwood. *Offa's Dyke* was a border line of Anglo-Saxon date, and is most clearly visible in the southern part of the county at Knighton and Clun, and the northern at Oswestry and Selattyn. Watt's Dyke is also observable near Oswestry.

Castles.—From its position on the Marches, Shropshire possessed a good many forts, although few of them rose to the dignity of a castle. Ludlow, however, is an exception, for in its history, extent, and grandeur, it yields to very few in England. Nearly all the Shropshire castles are of the same date.

Route		
1.	Acton Burnell.	13th cent.
9.	Alberbury.	Very slight traces.
9.	Caus Castle.	Norm.
5.	Clun.	Norm., supposed to be the "Garde Doloreux" of Sir Walter Scott.
1.	Hopton.	Early 14th cent.
1.	Ludlow.	Norm., with additions and alterations of Elizabethan date, and others still later.
13.	Middle Castle.	Temp. Edw. III.
9.	Wattlesborough.	Norm.
10.	Whittington.	Norm.

Of Shrawardine, Ellesmere, Knockin, and Bishop's Castle only the sites are left.

Ecclesiastical buildings are numerous and interesting, and especially the churches. By far the greater number are of Norm. date, and present many beautiful details. The following are the monastic or conventual remains that are left, all, with the exception of Bromfield, in more or less ruin :

Route		
1.	Bromfield Priory ch.	Norm. arcades, E. Eng.
4.	Buildwas Abbey, 12th cent.	Nave and chapter house.
8.	Haughmond Abbey, 12th cent.	Norm., E. Eng.
8.	Lilleshall Abbey.	Norm.
8.	Shrewsbury.	Monastic remains of the Abbey. Norm.
6.	Wenlock.	Norm., E. Eng.
7.	White Ladies conventual ch.	Norm.

The churches of Shropshire are particularly rich in architectural details and monuments, and the ecclesiologist will find much to repay him in out-of-the-way country districts. Church restoration has been extensively carried on, and, generally speaking, very judiciously.

Route

1. Acton Burnell. E. Eng. details, and brass.
7. Albrighton. Norm. and E. Eng., and Dec. details. Monuments.
4. Astley Abbott. Norm.
3. Aston Botterell. Altar-tomb.
4. Aston Eyre. Carving on tympanum.
8. Atcham. Norm.
6. Barrow. Norm.
9. Baschurch. Norm.
8. Battlefield. 16th cent.
4. Berrington. Saxon (?) font. Effigy.
3. Bitterley. Norm. font. Rood-loft. Churchyard cross.
4. Bridgnorth—
   St. Leonard's. Collegiate.
4. Broseley. Perp.
2. Burford. E. Eng. Triptych painting. Monuments.
4. Chelmarsh. Norm. Piscina.
7. Child's Ercall. Font.
8. Church Preen. Stone building adjoining the ch.
1. Church Stretton. Norm. doorway.
4. Claverley. Trans. Norm. Heads of capitals. Font.
4. Cleobury. Norm. font.
3. Cleobury Mortimer. E. Eng. Wooden spire.
5. Clun. Norm. Lych gate
8. Condover. Norm. Monument by *Roubilliac.*
7. Donington. Stained glass.
12. Ellesmere. Dec. Monuments. Stained glass.
7. Eyton. Monuments. Stained glass.
13. Hadnall. Monuments.
7. Hodnet. Monuments.
6. Holgate. Norm.
7. Ightfield. Brasses.
4. Kinlet. Blocked arches. Monuments. Stained glass.
4. Leighton. Effigy.
4. Linley. Norm. S. doorway.
11. Llanyblodwell. Octagonal tower.
1. Ludford. Monuments.
1. Ludlow. Perp. lantern tower. Stained glass. Norm. S. doorway.
5. Lydbury North. Norm. font and door.
7. Malins Lee Chapel. Norm.
3. Mamble. Chapels. Monuments. Effigies.
8. Minsterley.
4. Morville. Norm.
8. Newport. E. Eng.
10. Oswestry. Tower. Monuments.
7. Patshull. Stained glass. Altar-tombs.
7. Pattingham. Norm., E. Eng., and Dec.
8. Pitchford. Oak figure.
8. Pontesbury. Collegiate.
4. Quatford. Norm. and 14th-cent. alterations.

7. Shavington. Monuments.
13. Shawbury. Saxon (?) font.
7. Shiffnal. Trans. Norm. and Dec. Parvise to S. porch.
8. Shrewsbury—
   Abbey Church. Norm., E. Eng., and Dec. Stained glass. Monuments.
   St. Giles's.
   St. Mary's. Norm., E. Eng., and Dec. E. window. Stained glass. Pulpit. Monuments.
   St. Julian's. Monuments.
1. Staunton Lacey. Pre-Conquest work. E. Eng., with Dec. alterations.
3. Stoddesdon. Norm. Pre-Conquest doorway. Tiles.
7. Tonge. E. Perp. Monuments very rich.
4. Upton Cressett. Norm. door.
8. Upton Magna. Fine ch., restored by Street.
3. Wheathill. Norm. door.
13. Whitchurch. Stained glass. Monuments. Apse.
3. Worfield. Screen. Monuments.
8. Wroxeter. Norm. Altar-tombs.

Domestic.—This class of antiquities is tolerably abundant in Salop, although there is not the same profusion of timber houses that prevails in Cheshire.

Route
8. Albright Hussey (moated).
2. Bleatherwood Court. Henry VIII.
7. Boscobel House. Timber-and-plaster.
4. Bridgnorth. Bishop Percy's House (restored).
1. Bromfield. Domestic buildings of Bromfield Priory.
8. Edgmund Rectory. 14th cent.
8. Frodesley Hall. Elizabethan.
1. Ludford Hall. 13th cent.
1. Ludlow. The Reader's House—17th cent. Lane Asylum—a little later. Bull Inn—panelling. Feathers Inn—timber-and-plaster.
8. Moreton Corbet. 17th cent.
7. Patshull Old Hall. Timber-and-plaster.
8. Pitchford Hall. Early part of 16th cent. Timber-and-plaster.
6. Plash. Tudor style.
8. Shrewsbury. Council House; Ireland's Mansion; Bernard's Hall; Butcher's Row; Owen's House; Jones's Mansion; Drapers' Hall; Vaughan's Place; Rowley's Mansion; Whitehall; Market House.
1. Stokesay. 13th cent. Castellated domestic.
6. Wenlock. Prior's residence. Old houses. Townhall.

Modern.—Few counties possess such wealthy territorial properties as Salop, many of their owners having inhabited their ancestral acres for a great number of generations. Amongst the most important seats in the county are the following:

Route	
8.	Acton Burnell, Shrewsbury.
13.	Acton Reynald, Shrewsbury
4.	Apley Park, near Bridgnorth.
7.	Apley Castle, near Wellington.
8.	Aqualate, Newport.
8.	Attingham Park, Shrewsbury.
3.	Badger Hall, Bridgnorth.
12.	Bettisfield, Ellesmere.
10.	Brogyntyn, Oswestry.
3.	Caynham Court, Ludlow.
8.	Chetwynd Park, Newport.
8.	Condover Park, Shrewsbury.
1.	Downton Castle, Ludlow.
4.	Gatacre Park, Bridgnorth.
12.	Gredington, Ellesmere.
12.	Halston, Oswestry.
12.	Hardwick Hall, Ellesmere.
13.	Hawkstone, Wem.
4.	Kinlet Hall, Cleobury Mortimer.
8.	Lilleshall Hall, Newport.
9.	Loton Park, Shrewsbury.
8.	Longner Hall, Shrewsbury.
6.	Lutwych Hall, Wenlock.
3.	Mawley Hall, Cleobury.
1.	Oakley Park, Ludlow.
7.	Patshull, Shiffnal.
7.	Shavington, Market Drayton.
6.	Shipton Hall, Wenlock.
4.	Stanley, Bridgnorth.
7.	Tonge, Shiffnal.
4.	Willey Park, Wenlock.

II. CHESHIRE.

The early history of Cheshire appears with great probability to be bound up with its physico-geological features, seeing that the accounts of the earliest geographers agree very much with what our geological knowledge tells us must have been the case. In fact, since the time of man, and even as late as the occupation of the Romans, the north-west portion of the county has evidently undergone great changes.

Ptolemy mentions that there were only two rivers between the mouth of the Dee (Seteia Portus) and the Ken (Moricamb), which of course would exclude the third one altogether, viz. the mouth of the Mersey. This therefore would seem to imply that the mouths of the Dee and Mersey were identical, and a careful consideration of the aspect of the district of Wirral appears to confirm this view. "It is generally acknowledged that at some distant period the tides have risen considerably higher on the western coast than at present, and this is borne out by the appearance of the banks of all the Lancashire as well as the Cheshire rivers, even without acceding to the common opinion that the Ribble was once accessible for ships as high as the Roman station of Ribchester. With reference to this, several channels have been pointed out in the account of Wirral, by which the waters of the Mersey and Dee would have been made to communicate between that hundred and Broxton through a valley yet marked with shells and sea-sand, by a tide only a few feet higher than usual, and the same stream would also be led through other valleys between West Kirkby and Wallasey and the rest of Wirral."—*Ormerod.*

From the mouth of the little river Gowy there is a valley a very few feet above high water, through which communication could easily

be made through Backford to Mollington. It is quite plain, indeed, that the tide once flowed that way; and when, added to that, we have the names of Ince (Ynys = island) and the claims of the Abbot of St. Werburgh, in the reign of Edward III., to seawrack 3 m. up the valley, it is more than probable that the high ground of Kirkby was an island, and that the Dee and Mersey had the same mouth.

In early British times the Cornavii were the inhabitants of Cheshire, but at the period of the Roman occupation it was included, like Shropshire, in the province of Flavia Cæsariensis. The Romans continued their holding of the county for between 200 and 300 years. Deva (Chester, Rte. 24) seems to have been occupied under Agricola, and to have been so held until the reigns of Diocletian and Maximian (A.D. 304). Various traces, in the shape of walls, coins, inscriptions, hypocausts, combine to make Chester one of the most interesting Roman cities in England; and, although little or nothing is left of the roads that led to it, we have sufficient knowledge of their direction to make them out pretty distinctly, and in this we are helped by the names of the villages on their route. An important road led from Deva to Uriconium (Wroxeter), which, according to the Antonine Itinerary, passed through Bovium (placed by antiquaries at Bangor Iscoed), just within the borders of Flintshire and on the banks of the Dee, which, it must be borne in mind, had probably a somewhat different course from what it has now.

From *Deva* a road ran north-east to the station of *Veratinum*, now Wilderspool, near Warrington (Rte. 25), and continued thence to *Mancunium* (Manchester), quitting Cheshire where it crossed the Dee at the small station marked *Ad Fines et Flaviæ*. From Veratinum, a road ran southward to the station of *Condate*, identified by antiquaries as Kinderton, near Middlewich, and was most probably connected with *Pennocrucium* (Penkridge) in Staffordshire, and ultimately with *Etocetum* (Wall, near Lichfield). A cross-road, marked as the Watling Street, joined Deva with the Condate and Veratinum road at Northwich, passing through Tarvin and Delamere Forest. The names of Stamford Bridge, Stretton, Walton, &c., are sufficiently corroborative of the position of this road. Chester, according to Mr. Earle, is the Saxon Ceaster, derived from Castrum. "The true old Roman name had been Diva (Antoninus) and Colonia Divana (on a coin of Septimus Geta), and it was while these names were buried in forgetfulness, after the Roman evacuation and during the presumed desertion of Diva, that the modern name took its rise."

After the Saxon conquest, Cheshire was governed by the Mercian "ealdormen" under the West Saxon kings, until the invasion of the Danes, the traces of whose occupation may be found in the occasional names of places ending in "by." Subsequently the Saxon rule was restored, and it continued under Earl Leofric until the Norman conquest. Soon after this event, King William gave the county and earldom of Chester to Hugh Lupus, a famous warrior, though somewhat corpulent, according to Ordericus Vitalis, "being given much to his belly, whereby in time he grew so fat that he could scarce crawl." The importance and extent of his possessions may be imagined by their embracing not only Cheshire proper, but the lands between the Mersey

and the Ribble, Lancashire not appearing at all as a territorial division in Domesday Book.

The line of Hugh Lupus expired in 1232, and soon afterwards Henry III. annexed the earldom to his crown, in the possession of which it remained ever afterwards, with one or two exceptions. "By an Act passed in Richard II.'s reign, the earldom was made into a principality, and was limited strictly for the future to the eldest son of the reigning king, and though the Act was annulled by one of the first year of Henry IV., the earldom of Chester has ever since been granted in conjunction with the Principality of Wales. The county continued to be governed by its earls as fully and independently as it had been under the Norman earls, till Henry VIII., by Act of Parliament, made it subordinate to the crown of England."—*Prov. Hist. of England.* In the Civil Wars, Cheshire suffered as much, if not more, than almost any county; Nantwich, Chester, Middlewich, Stockport, underwent sieges, together with a great number of private houses, whose owners suffered very considerably both in property and money; while the battles of Tarvin, Rowton, Hoole Heath, Malpas, and Northwich sufficiently betoken the severity of the struggle.

Cheshire was always noted, as indeed it is now, for the number of its aristocracy and wealthy proprietors. For generations we find the same time-honoured names from the days of the Plantagenets down to the Stuarts and to the present time. Of course many historical names have disappeared altogether, while others have dropped from their high estate, and have only the melancholy satisfaction of pointing to where their ancestors held sway. But what the troublous times of the middle ages and the hard blows of the Civil Wars could not do, the changes of the 19th cent. are doing. Manufactures and commerce are gradually pushing aside the old noblesse, while *nouveaux riches* are taking their place, and to a certain extent it may be said that Cheshire has become a suburb of Manchester and Liverpool.

The County Palatine of Cheshire affords ample interest to the antiquary, and particularly in the matter of churches and old houses. The Roman stations and roads have already been alluded to, and will be found detailed under their respective routes. Camps and earthworks are extremely few in number, and are limited to the hilly districts, which will probably account for their scarcity. There are two or three to be found in the chain of hills that extend from Helsby to Frodsham (Rte. 25)—a British fortification named Bucton Castle, in the hilly country north of Stalybridge (Rte. 17)—and Kelsborough Castle (Rte. 17), of British origin, a little to the south of Delamere Forest. There are some tumuli in the same neighbourhood, but taken in connection with the (?) Saxon fortress of Eddisbury (Rte. 21), it is most probable that these are also of Saxon date—the word "Low," or tumulus, being derived from the Anglo-Saxon "Lleaw," that which covers. The Roosdych, near Whaley Bridge (Rte. 16), with Melandra and Mouslow Castles (Rte. 19) are just within the Derbyshire borders, so that they cannot be included in Cheshire antiquities.

Of existing castle ruins there are still fewer than of camps. Beeston (Rte. 23) and Halton (Rte. 25), both of Norm. date and origin, are the only ones left. Of the castles of Northwich, Stockport, Frodsham

and Dodleston, only the sites remain. Rock Savage (Rte. 25) was dignified with the name of a castle, but it really was an Elizabethan castellated mansion.

Foremost amongst objects of ecclesiastical interest is the splendid old Perp. Cathedral of St. Werburgh at Chester.

The traces of the Priory of Birkenhead (Rte. 26), dating from the 12th cent., are unfortunately small, while of Pulford (Rte. 24) and Stanlaw (Rte. 25) Abbeys, the site only remains. There are some traces of monastic occupation at Ince (Rte. 25) and at Vale Royal (Rte. 18), now one of the finest of Cheshire residences.

Many of the churches of Cheshire are very fine, and abound in beautiful details. The following are the best worth visiting:

Route

21. Arley Chapel. Modern Dec.
15. Astbury. Perp. Very fine west front, and general appearance. Monuments in ch. and churchyard.
21. Bowdon. Late Perp. Windows. Chapels. Monuments.
22. Brereton. 17th cent. Monuments.
21. Budworth. Stalls. Monuments.
23. Bunbury. Dec. and Perp. Chapels. Monuments.
20. Cheadle. Monuments.
24. Chester—
    St. John's. Splendid example of E. Norm. Double row triforium arches.
    St. Mary's. 12th cent. Monuments.
    Trinity Church. Monuments.
25. Daresbury Chapel. Rood-loft.
16. Disley. 15th cent. Illuminated roof.
20. Dunham Massey. Modern.
20. East Hall Chapel. 1581.
25. Frodsham. Stalls. Monuments.
15. Gawsworth. Mural paintings.
20. Grappenhall. 16th cent.
14. Holmes Chapel. Shrine work.
17. Hyde. Perp. Stained glass.
20. Lymm. Dec.
15. Macclesfield—
    St. Michael's. 13th cent. Monuments.
    Rivers Chapel (Edwardian). Monuments. Oriel window.
24. Malpas. Dec. and Perp. Monuments.
22. Middlewich. Monuments.
21. Mobberley. Piscina. Sedilia. Brasses. Monuments.
19. Mottram. Perp. Monuments.
14. Nantwich. Cruciform Ch. of 14th cent. Vaulted stone roof of choir. Stalls.
26. Neston. Fine tower and general appearance.
21. Over Peover. 16th cent. Monuments.
    Nether Peover Black-and-white Timber Church.
25. Plemstall. Henry VIII. Monuments.
15. Prestbury. Various styles.
21. Rostherne. 16th cent. Monuments.

Route
14. Sandbach. 17th cent. Chapels. Oak roof. Font. In the town are two crosses of pure Saxon date.
26. Shotwick. Monuments.
14. Stockport. Dec. Piscina. Stalls. Monuments.
21. Tabley. Jacobean Chapel.
23. Tarporley. Monuments.
21. Tarvin. Bruen Chapel. Brass.
16. Taxal. Monuments.
25. Thornton. Piscina. Monuments.
20. Warburton. 14th cent. Ancient timber.
18. Weaverham. Date of James I.
14. Wilmslow. 14th cent.

With the exception of Lancashire, Cheshire is perhaps the richest county in England in old houses, and particularly of that quaint and old-fashioned style of timber-and-plaster. It is a fact worth mentioning, that the prevalence of this style somewhat depends on the geological formation; for timber houses are always more abundant in flat districts, where quarries are absent, than in hilly ones. Cheshire, being principally on the New Red sandstone, in which quarries are few and far between, is therefore abundant in this class of antiquities.

Route
15. Adlington Hall. Elizabethan.
21. Arley Hall. Elizabethan.
21. Ashley Hall.
20. Baguley Hall. Farmhouse. Timber-and-plaster. Edward II.
15. Bramhall. Timber-and-plaster. Edward III.
22. Brereton Hall. 16th cent.
24. Calveley Hall. Farmhouse.
24. Carden. Timbered. Henry III.
24. Chester. Bishop Lloyd's residence. God's Providence House. Stanley Palace. The Rows. Falcon, and other old houses.
15. Congleton. Timber houses.
22. Cotton Hall. Timber-and-plaster.
18. Crowton Hall. Farmhouse. Timber-and-plaster.
22. Davenport Hall.
14. Dorfold Hall. Elizabethan.
17. Dukinfield Hall. Timber-and-plaster. Edward II.
21. Do. Farmhouse.
18. Dutton Hall. 16th cent.
25. Elton Hall. Farmhouse. 17th cent.
18. Erdeswick Hall.
17. Harden Hall. Elizabethan.
23. Hatton Hall.
21. Holford Hall. Farmhouse. Timber-and-plaster.
23. Huxley Hall. Edward I.
22. Kinderton Hall. Farmhouse. Timber-and-plaster. 17th cent.
24. Kinnerton Hall. Edward III.
24. Lache Hall. 17th cent.
16. Lyme Park. Henry VII.

Route
20. Lymm Hall.
17. Marple Hall. Elizabethan.
15. Moreton Hall (Little). Timber-and-plaster.
21. Over Peover Hall. Elizabethan.
15. Poynton Hall. 17th cent.
22. Ravenscroft Hall. 17th cent.
23. Saighton Grange. Gate tower.
14. Sandbach Old Hall. (The Inn.) 17th cent.
22. Smethwick Hall. Farmhouse.
22. Somerford Booths. 17th cent.
21. Tabley Old Hall. 17th cent.
19. Tintwistle Hall.
14. Twemlow Hall. Moated.
23. Utkinton Hall.
23. Wetenhall. Gabled. Timber-and-plaster.
20. Wythenshawe Hall. Edward III.

Amongst the old family seats and estates of Cheshire the fines are—

Route
14. Alderley Park.
14. Capesthorne.
24. Cholmondeley Castle.
14. Crewe Hall.
14. Combermere Abbey.
24. Eaton Hall.
19. Glossop Hall.
16. Lyme Park.

Route
21. Marbury Hall.
25. Norton Priory.
23. Oulton Park.
23. Peckforton Castle.
21. Tabley.
21. Tatton Park.
18. Vale Royal.

V. PLACES OF INTEREST.

I. SHROPSHIRE.

Ludlow. Castle. View from the Keep. Church. Reader's House. Hosiers' Almshouse. Lane Asylum. Grammar School. Museum. Broad Street Gate. Feathers Hotel. Ludford House and Church. Scenery at Whitecliff and Mary Knoll. Aston Church. Wigmore Church. Hay Park. Scene of "Comus." Bringewood Chase. View from the Vignoles. Croft Ambrey. Richard's Castle. Burrington Church. Downton Castle. Scenery of the Teme. Bitterley Church and Cross. Caynham Camp. Titterstone Clee Hill and Camp. Brown Clee Hill and Camps of Clee Burf and Abdon Burf. Wheathill Church. Burwarton Church.

Bromfield. Priory Church. Oakley Park. Staunton Lacey Church.

Craven Arms. Stokesay. Norton Camp. Corvedale. Delbury Church, The Heath Chapel. Munslow Church. Millichope Old House. Holgate Church.

Church Stretton. Church. Ascent of Longmynd. Carding Mill. Devil's Mouth. Light Spout. Ratlinghope. Castle Ring. Bodbury

Ring. Portway. Ascent of Caer Caradoc. (Camp.) Cardington. Hope Bowdler.

Leebotwood. Acton Burnell Park. Castle. Church. Frodesley Church. Pitchford Hall. Church.

Condover. Park and Church.

Wooferton. Little Hereford Church. Easton Court. Bleatherwood Court.

Tenbury. Church. Butter Cross. Wells. St. Michael's College. Burford Church.

Neen Sollars. Mamble Church. Shakenhurst.

Cleobury Mortimer. Church and wooden spire. Grammar School. Mawley Hall. Limestone scenery at Farlow and Oreton. Forest of Wyre.

Bewdley. Railway bridge. Scenery of the Severn. Habberley Valley.

Bridgnorth. Castle. St. Leonard's Church. St. Mary's Church. Townhall. Bishop Percy's House. Bridge. Grammar School. Hermitage. Quatford Church. Claverley Church. Stoddesdon Church. Cleobury Church. Davenport House. Worfield Church. Scenery of the Worf. Badger Hall. Scenery of Badger Dingle. Morville Church. Upton Cresset Church. Aston Eyre Church. Acton Round Church. Astley Abbott Church.

Higley. Kinlet Hall and Church. Chelmarsh Church.

Linley. Church. Apley Park. The Terrace. Willey Park.

Coalport. Scenery of Severn.

Iron Bridge. Church. Bridge. Coalbrook Dale Works. Scenery. Broseley. Pritchard Memorial. Church. Messrs. Maw's Tile Works at Benthall. Scenery at Benthall Edge.

Buildwas. Abbey. Railway Bridge. Leighton Church.

Cressage. Timber bridge. Old oak.

Berrington. Church.

Knighton. Old house. Church. Offa's Dyke. Farrington. Craig Donna. Holloway Rocks. Caer Caradoc. Coxwall Knoll.

Clun. Castle. Church. Bury Ditches. Menhir. Castell Bryn Amlwg.

Bishop's Castle. Church. Walcot Park. Linley Hall. Snead Camp. Simond's Castle. Marnington Dyke. Corndon Hill. Circle at Mitchell's Fold. Shelve Mines. Lydbury North Church.

Minsterley. Church. Stiperstones. Habberley Camp. Pontesbury Church. Stapeley Hill and Stone Circles.

Hopton. Castle.

Longville. Old house at Plash. Church Preen Church and Manor House.

Easthope. Lutwych Hall. The Ditches.

Wenlock. Priory ruins. Church. Prior's residence. Old houses. Barrow Church.

Albrighton. Church. Patshull Park and Church. Pattingham Church. Donington Church. White Ladies Ruins. Boscobel Wood and House. Weston Park. Tonge Church. Castle.

Shiffnal. Church. View from Brimstree Hill.

Oakengates. Malins Lee Chapel. Coalfield.

Wellington. Church. Apley Castle. Excursion to the Wrekin. Eyton Church.

Hodnet. Hall. Church. Child's Ercall Church.

Market Drayton. Church. Blore Heath. Muckleston Church.

Adderley. Hall. Shavington.

Shrewsbury. Railway Station. Castle. Town Walls. Welsh and English bridges. St. Mary's Church. St. Alkmund's. St. Julian's. New St. Chad's. Abbey Church. Monastic remains. Stone pulpit. St. Giles'. St. Michael's. School. Council House. Old buildings. Grey Friar ruins. Butter Market. Corn Exchange. Market House. Clive Monument. Lord Hill's Column. Drapers' Almshouses. Wellington Hospital. Museum. Quarry. Glyndwr's Oak. Atcham Church. Attingham Hall. Wroxeter Church. Roman city. Haughmond Abbey. Sundorne Park. Uffington Hill. Ebury Camp. Upton Magna Church. Battlefield Church. Albright Hussey. Longner Hall. Tomb of Edward Burton.

Donnington. Lilleshall Abbey. Iron Works.

Newport. Church. Aqualate Park. Edgmond Church and Rectory. Chetwynd Park.

Baschurch. Church. Berth Hill Camp. Ruyton of the XI Towns.

Whittington. Castle.

Oswestry. Church. Old Oswestry. Castell Brogyntyn. Brogyntyn. Watt's Dyke. Llanymynach Hill. Llanyblodwell Church.

Gobowen. Scenery of Glen Ceiriog. Viaduct and Aqueduct. Halston.

Ellesmere. Church. Lake. Hardwicke.

Bettesfield. Hanmer Church.

Westbury. Caus Castle.

Alberbury. Church. Loton. Belan Bank. Rowton Castle. Wattlesborough Castle. Woolaston. Breidden Hills.

Hadnall. Church. Shawbury Church. Moreton Corbet House. Church.

Yorton. Grinshill. Copper Mines at Clive.

Wem. Church. Hawkstone Park.

Whitchurch. Church.

II. CHESHIRE.

Wrenbury. Church. Combermere Abbey.

Nantwich. Church. Townhall. Elizabethan House in Hospital Street. Dorfold Hall.

Crewe. Railway Station. Engine Factories. Bessemer Steel Works. Crewe Hall (not shown).

Sandbach. Church. Inn. Crosses.

Holmes Chapel. Cotton Hall. Blackden Hall. Somerford Booths. Davenport Hall. Brereton Hall and Church.

Chelford. Withington Hall. Capesthorne.

Alderley. Edge. Copper Mines.

Wimslow. Church Lindow Common.

Handforth. Styal. Norcliffe Hall.

Stockport. Railway Viaduct. Church. Market Place. Vernon Park. Factories. Bramhall.

Poynton. Hall.

Adlington. Adlington Hall.

Macclesfield. Church. Rivers Chapel. Christ Church. Cemetery. Park. Grammar School. Silk Mills. Excursion to Cat and Fiddle. Reservoirs near Langley. Prestbury Church. Shutlingslow. Bollington. Pott Shrigley Church. Gawsworth Church and Tilting Ground.

Congleton. Townhall. Silk Mills. Timbered Houses. Cloud End. Congleton Edge. Mow Cop. Biddulph. Astbury Church. Little Moreton Hall.

Harecastle. Tunnel. Lawton Church. Coalmines.

Whaley Bridge. Scenery of the Goyt. Roosdych. Taxall Church.

Disley. Lyme Park.

Marple. Hall. Church. View from the Churchyard. Chadkirk Church. Compstall.

Woodley. Werneth Low. Harden Hall.

Hyde. Church. Cotton Mills. Dukinfield Chapel and Hall.

Mottram. Church. View from Churchyard.

Dinting Vale. Viaduct.

Glossop. Hall. Church. Melandra Castle. Mouslow Castle.

Hadfield. Tintwistle. Manchester Reservoirs in the Etherow Valley.

Cheadle. Church.

Northenden. Wythenshaw Hall.

Baguley. Baguley Hall.

Dunham Massey. Hall. Dunham Church.

Altrincham. Scenery of the Bollin. Bowdon Downs. Church.

Timperley. Riddings. Fir Tree Farm. Ashton on Mersey. Roman Station. Carrington Moss.

Heatley. Warburton Church. Hall.

Lymm. Church. Dell of the Dane. Hall. Quarries. High Leigh. East Hall. West Hall.

Thelwall. Grappenhall Church.

Ashley. Scenery of the Bollin. Rostherne Mere and Church. Mere Hall.

Mobberley. Church. Dukinfield Hall.

Knutsford. Unitarian Burying Ground, with grave of Mrs. Gaskell. Gaol. Townhall. Tatton Park and Gardens. Toft Hall and Church. Over Peover Hall and Church. Lower Peover Church. Tabley Old Hall.

Plumley. Holford Hall.

Northwich. Salt Works. Old Marston Mine. Marbury Hall. Budworth Church. Arley Hall and Chapel.

Minshull Vernon. Erdeswick Hall.

Winsford. Salt Works. Over.

Hartford Bridge. Vale Royal. Scenery of the Weaver. Weaverham Church. Dutton Hall. Delamere Forest. View from Eddisbury Hill. Old Fortress. Tumuli. Kelsborough Castle. Tarvin Church.

Middlewich. Church. Lea Hall. Bostock. Davenham.

Calverley. Wetenhall Hall. Wardle Hall.

Beeston. Castle. Peckforton Castle. Walk through the woods to Burwardsley. Peckforton Hills. Bunbury Church. Tarporley Church. Swan Inn. Oulton Park.

Tattenhall. Huxley Hall. Hatton.

Waverton. Rowton Heath.

Malpas. Church. Cholmondeley Castle. Broxton. Peckforton Hills. Carden. Farndon. Holt. Handley Church. Calverley Hall.

Chester. Walls. Gates. Phœnix Tower. Water Tower. Bonwaldesthorne's Tower. Morgan's Mount. Pemberton's Parlour. Wishing Steps. View from Walls. Rows. God's Providence House. Bishop Lloyd's House. Stanley Palace. Timber houses. Roman remains. Cathedral. St. John's. St. Peter's. St. Mary's. Trinity Church. Castle. Grosvenor Bridge. Exchange. Music Hall. Blue Coat School. Museum. Eaton Hall. Eccleston Church. Lache Hall. Dodleston. Kinnerton Hall. Plemstall Church. Saighton Grange.

Helsby. Scenery of the hills. Alvanley.

Mollington. Shotwick Church. Views of Flintshire coast.

Hooton. Hall.

Neston. Church.

Parkgate. The Dee.

Hoylake. Hilbre Island. Leasowe Castle. Bidston Hill. Observatory.

Birkenhead. Ferries. Landing Station. Docks. Wallasey Pool. Park. Hamilton Square. St. Aidan's College. Workmen's dwellings. Seacombe. Egremont. New Brighton. Sloyne. Storeton Hill and Quarries. Eastham.

Ince. Manor House. Church. Thornton Hall.

Whitby. Port Ellesmere Docks.

Frodsham. Church. Scenery of hills and Weaver.

Halton. Castle. Church. Rock Savage.

Runcorn. Church. Canal Works. Railway Bridge. Weston Point.

Norton. Priory. Daresbury Chapel.

VI. CELEBRATED MEN,

WHO HAVE BEEN BORN IN OR ARE IDENTIFIED WITH THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTIES.

I. SHROPSHIRE.

Adams, Sir T., Lord Mayor of London in the 17th cent.
Alison, Sir A., the historian.
Baxter, the Nonconformist divine. 17th cent.
Beddoes, Dr., chemist and man of science. 18th cent.
Benbow, Admiral. 1650.
Brown, Isaac, lawyer and poet. 18th cent.
Brown, Tom, poet. 17th cent.

Burnell, Sir Robert, Bishop of Bath and Wells. 14th cent.
Burney, Dr., musician. 18th cent.
Charlton, Sir Job, Judge of Common Pleas. James I.
Churchyard, the poet. 16th cent.
Clive, Lord, the Indian hero. 18th cent.
Darwin, Charles, naturalist.
Edwardes, Sir Herbert, of Mooltan.
Farmer, Hugh, a celebrated Dissenting minister. 18th cent.
Hanmer, Sir T., Speaker of the House of Commons. 18th cent.
Hayes, Dr. William, organist of St. Mary's, Shrewsbury. 18th cent.
Hill, Lord, the Peninsular hero.
Hill, Sir Richard, controversialist.
Hill, Rowland, the preacher.
Hyde, Dr., Orientalist and keeper of the Bodleian. 17th cent.
Ireland, John, author. 18th cent.
Johnes, Thomas, of Hafod, translator of "Froissart's Chronicles."
Kynaston, Sir Francis, scholar and poet. 16th cent.
Longland, Robert, poet. 14th cent.
More, Richard, M.P. for Bishop's Castle in the Long Parliament.
Orton, Job, scholar and Nonconformist.
Owen, T., Judge of Common Pleas. Reign of Elizabeth.
Parr, Old, the "centenarian."
Percy, Bishop, author of "The Reliques."
Robert of Shrewsbury, Bishop of Bangor. 13th cent.
Stephens, Jeremiah, scholar and critic. 17th cent.
Taylor, translator of Demosthenes.
Thomas, John, Bishop of Salisbury. 18th cent.
Wilkins, botanist.
Wycherley, poet and dramatist. 17th cent.

II. CHESHIRE.

Birkenhead, Sir J., editor of the "Mercurius Aulicus." During the Civil War.
Booth, George, Baron Delamere. During the Civil War.
Booth, John, Bishop of Exeter.
Booth, Lawrence, Archbishop of York. Reign of Edward IV.
Booth, William, Archbishop of York.
Boydell, John, Lord Mayor of London. 18th cent.
Bradshaw, Sir H., Chief Baron of the Exchequer. Reign of Edward VI.
Bradshaw, John, President of the Court that condemned Charles I.
Brereton, Sir W., the Parliamentary commander.
Bruen, John, a celebrated Puritan gentleman.
Calveley, Sir Hugh, a naval commander. Reign of James I.
Cotton, Sir Stapleton, the Peninsular general.
Crewe, Sir Randal, Chief Justice to James I.
Davenport, Sir Humphry, Chief Baron of the Exchequer. Charles I.
Dukenfield, Colonel, a Parliamentary leader.
Egerton, Thomas, Master of the Rolls to Queen Elizabeth.
Fothergill, Dr., a celebrated physician. 18th cent.

Gerarde, John, the herbalist. 16th cent.
Harrison, Thomas, the regicide.
Heber, Reginald, Bishop of Calcutta.
Henry, Matthew, the commentator.
Higden, Ralph, the chronicler.
Holinshed, Ralph, the chronicler and antiquary in the reign of Elizabeth.
Legh, Sir Perkin, knighted at the battle of Crecy.
Leicester, Sir P., antiquary and county historian.
Lindsey, Theophilus, a celebrated Unitarian divine of the 18th cent.
Nedham, Sir John, Judge in reign of Henry VI.
Nixon, the Cheshire prophet in the time of James I.
Parnell, Dr., Archdeacon of Clogher, and poet.
Percival, Sir T., Lord Mayor of London. Edward IV.
Shaw, Dr., a noted preacher. Reign of Edward IV.
Shaw, Sir E., Lord Mayor of London. Reign of Richard III.
Speed, John, antiquary. Reign of James I.
Touchet, Sir John, commander. Time of Edward IV.
Whitney, Geoffrey, poet. Time of Elizabeth.

VII. SKELETON TOURS.

(*To be varied according to pleasure.*)

(*The Places marked in Italics are the best for Headquarters.*)

I. SHROPSHIRE.

Days

1. By rail from *Wolverhampton* to Codsall or Albrighton Stats. Drive or walk thence to White Ladies and Boscobel (not shown after 5 P.M. nor on Sundays). Continue excursion to Tonge Church and Castle. Sleep at *Shiffnal.*
2. See Shiffnal Church. Walk to Brimstree Hill. By rail to Wellington. Excursion to Wrekin. Sleep at *Wellington.*
3. By rail to Lilleshall. See Abbey and Iron Works. Return to *Shrewsbury* by rail, and on the way see Upton Magna Church.
4. Spend at *Shrewsbury.*
5. Excursions in the morning to Haughmond Abbey and Uffington Hill; in afternoon to Battlefield Church and Moreton Corbet, returning by rail from Hadnall to *Shrewsbury.*
6. Excursion to Atcham and Wroxeter. Afternoon by train to Buildwas. See Abbey. Sleep at *Buildwas.*
7. Excursion to Wenlock. See Abbey, &c.; scenery of Benthall and Wenlock Edges. Sleep at *Ironbridge.*
8. Ironworks. Lincoln Hill. By rail from Ironbridge to Linley. See the Terrace at Apley Park. Sleep at *Bridgnorth.*
9. See Bridgnorth. Afternoon excursion to Worfield and the Badger Dingle. Return to *Bridgnorth.*
10. Rail to Bewdley. See Forest of Wyre and Cleobury Mortimer; thence to *Tenbury*, where sleep. See Burford Church in afternoon.

Days

11. See St. Michael's College. Afternoon, rail to Little Hereford, where see Church, and on by train to *Ludlow*. See Castle.
12. *Ludlow*. Afternoon, excursion to Vignalls and scene of Milton's "Comus."
13. Excursion to Leintwardine and Downton. Scenery of the Teme.
14. Excursion to the Clee Hills, returning to *Ludlow* by Staunton Lacey.
15. From Ludlow by rail to Craven Arms. See Stokesay Castle. Rail from Craven Arms to Hopton Castle and *Knighton*, where sleep.
16. Excursion to Clun Church and Castle. Sleep at Clun, and excursions.
17. To Bishop's Castle by Lydbury North, thence by rail to Lydham Heath, for Linley, Craven Arms, and *Church Stretton*.
18. Explore the Longmynd, and, if a good pedestrian, continue over the Stiperstones to Minsterley Stat., where take last train to *Shrewsbury*; or
    Ascend the Caer Caradoc or Lawley, and afternoon by train to *Shrewsbury*.
19. By train to Middletown Stat., and ascend the Breidden. Return to Shrewsbury, or, if preferred, go on to Welshpool and take the train to *Oswestry*.
20. See Oswestry and Llanymynach Hill. Afternoon, train to Whittington. See Castle. Sleep at *Ellesmere*.
21. See Ellesmere, and by rail to Whitchurch and Wem. Afternoon, excursion to *Hawkstone*. Sleep at the Inn there.
22. Drive or walk to Hodnet, and thence by train to Market Drayton and *Nantwich*; or
    Return from Hawkstone to Wem, and take the train to Wrenbury. See Combermere Abbey, and by rail from Wrenbury to *Nantwich*.

II. CHESHIRE.

Days

1. See Nantwich, Acton Church, Combermere Abbey (train from *Nantwich* to Wrenbury), and in evening to *Crewe*, where sleep.
2. See Railway Stat. and Engine Works; Crewe Hall. Afternoon, take the train to Basford and visit Wybunbury Church.
3. From *Crewe* by train to Harecastle and Mow Cop. See Little Moreton Hall; Astbury Church. Sleep at *Congleton*.
4. Excursion to Congleton Edge or Cloud Hill, and to Biddulph Gardens. In evening by rail to *Macclesfield*.
5. See Macclesfield. Afternoon, excursion to Shutlingslow.
6. Excursion to Cat and Fiddle, returning to *Macclesfield* by Jenkin's Chapel and Bollington.
7. By train to Bramhall. See the Hall. Sleep at *Cheadle*.
8. Excursion from Stockport to Lyme Park, Disley Church, and Whaley Bridge. If time, walk to Taxal. Return to *Cheadle*.
9. Excursion to Chadkirk, Marple Hall, and to Hyde for Harden and Dukinfield Halls. Return to *Cheadle*.

Days
10. Excursion by rail to Mottram, Tintwistle, the Reservoirs, and Glossop.
11. From *Stockport* by rail to Alderley. See the Edge and Copper Works. Afternoon, by rail to *Sandbach.*
12. See Sandbach, Brereton Hall, and other old houses in the neighbourhood. Afternoon, by train to Middlewich and *Northwich.*
13. See Northwich Salt Works and (if possible) Old Marston Mine. Afternoon, Holford Hall or Arley Hall and Chapel. Sleep at *Knutsford.*
14. See Rostherne Church and Mere, Bowden Church and Downs, and Dunham Massey. Sleep at *Altrincham.*
15. See Wythenshaw and Baguley Halls, Lymm Church and Quarries, and Grappenhall Church. Sleep at *Warrington.*
16. By rail from *Warrington* to Hartford Bridge, Delamere Forest, Tarvin, and *Chester.*
17. See Chester and Eaton Hall.
18. Excursion to Beeston Castle, Tarporley, and Bunbury Church. The pedestrian can sleep at *Beeston* and walk on
19. To the Peckforton Hills, Broxton, Carden, Handley, and *Chester.*
20. From *Chester* by rail to Frodsham; excursion over the hills. Afternoon, see Runcorn and Halton Castle; and, in the evening, by train (viâ Helsby) to *Birkenhead.*
21. See Birkenhead Docks and town. Afternoon, by rail to Bidston, Leasowes, and *Hoylake,* where sleep.
22. Walk or drive to Parkgate. By rail to Neston and Eastham, whence cross by steamer to *Liverpool.*

VIII. ANTIQUARIAN TOURS.

(*The Places in Italics are the best Centres from which to explore.*)

I. SHROPSHIRE (COMMENCING AT BEWDLEY).

Days
1. Rail to Cleobury Mortimer (Church), or to Neen Sollers Stat. thence walk to Mamble Church. On to Tenbury (Church). Burford Church. Little Hereford Church. Reach *Ludlow* for headquarters.
2. Ludlow Castle. Church. Reader's House. Grammar School. Lane Asylum. Bull and Feathers Inns. Bridge and Gate. Ludford Church. Bromfield and Staunton Lacey Churches.
3. Aston Church. Wigmore Church and Castle. Croft Ambrey Earthwork. Richard's Castle. Scene of "Comus."
4. Caynham Camp. Bitterley Cross, Church, and Court. Titterston Clee Camp. Continue excursion either to Brown Clee, and see the Camps of Clee Burf, Abdon Burf, and Nordy Bank, or else visit the Churches of Wheathill, Burwarton, and Aston Botterell.
5. *Craven Arms.* Stokesay Castle. Norton Camp. View Edge. Culmington Church. Cortham Earthworks. The Heath Chapel. Delbury Church.

Days

6. Hopton Castle. Coxwall Knoll. *Knighton*, old houses. Farrington. Caer Caradoc.
7. Drive to Clun Church and Castle. Menhir and Castell Bryn Amlwg. Bury Ditches. Tumuli. *Bishop's Castle* Church. Camp at Snead. Hyssington Church. Circles on Corndon Hill.
8. Billing's Ring. Castle Ring. *Church Stretton* Church. Ancient road on Longmynd. Brockhurst Castle. Bodbury Ring. Caer Caradoc.
9. By train to Leebotwood Stat. Walk to Frodesley Hall. Acton Burnell Castle. Pitchford Hall and Church, rejoining the Severn Valley Rly. at Condover Stat.; thence to *Shrewsbury*.
10. Spend in examination of Shrewsbury.
11. Visit Atcham Church. Wroxeter Church and City; returning by Upton Magna Church. Uffington Church. Haughmond Abbey. Ebury Camp; and by Sundorne to Shrewsbury.
12. Visit by rail, Berrington Church. Cressage Oak. Leighton Church, and Buildwas Abbey.
13. *Wenlock* Abbey. Prior's House. Townhall. Acton Round Church. Barrow Church.
14. By rail to Easthope Stat. Visit house at Plash. Langley Hall Gateway. The Ditches.
15. Iron Bridge. Linley Church. Astley Abbotts Church. *Bridgnorth* Castle, Church, old houses.
16. Morville Church. Aston Eyre Church. Upton Cresset Church. Quatford and Quat Churches.
17. Claverley Church. Worfield Church. The Walls. Badger Church. Patshull Church, continuing to Albrighton Stat., where a train may be caught either to *Wolverhampton* or Shiffnal; the former perhaps will be most convenient.
18. Return by train to Albrighton Stat. See the Church, and Donnington Church; then visit White Ladies ruins and Boscobel. On return to *Shiffnal*, see Tonge Church.
19. Shiffnal Church. Malins Lee Chapel. Wombridge Priory ruins. *Wellington*. Earthworks on the Wrekin.
20. Lilleshall Abbey. Woodcote Church. Newport Church. Edgmond Church and Rectory. Eyton Church. Return by rail to *Shrewsbury*.
21. Hanwood Church. Pontesbury Church and Camp. Minsterley Church. Caus Castle. Wattlesborough Castle; returning to Westbury Stat., and thence to *Shrewsbury*.
22. Battlefield Church. Albright Hussey. Moreton Corbett, Hadnall, and Shawbury Churches.
23. By rail to Baschurch Stat. The Berth. Ruyton of the XI Towns. Whittington Church and Castle. Park Hall. *Oswestry*.
24. Old Oswestry. Offa's Dyke. Castell Brogyntyn. Ellesmere Church. Hanmer Church. *Whitchurch*.
25. Wem Church. Edstaston Church. Hawkstone. Red Castle. Bury Walls. Hodnet Church. *Market Drayton*.

Days
26. Blore Heath. Muckleston Church. Stoke-upon-Tern Church. Adderley Church. *Nantwich.* Enter Cheshire.

II. CHESHIRE.

Days
1. Nantwich Church and old houses. Acton Church, Dorfold Hall. Combermere Abbey. Wrenbury Church.
2. *Crewe* Hall. Coppenhall Church. Haslington Hall. Wybunbury Church. Barthomley Church. Lawton Church.
3. *Sandbach* Church. Inn. Crosses. Betchton Hall. Holmes Chapel Church. Cotton Hall. Twemlow Hall. Blackden Hall.
4. Somerford Booths. Swettenham Hall. Davenport Hall. Brereton Hall and Church. Smethwick Hall. Little Moreton Hall. Astbury Church.
5. *Congleton*, old houses. Crossley. Gawsworth Church. Macclesfield Church. Rivers Chapel. Prestbury Church.
6. Alderley Church. Bramhall. *Stockport* Church. Bank House. Harden Hall. Hyde Church. Dukinfield Hall.
7. Disley Church. Lyme Hall. Whaley Bridge. Roosdych. Taxal Church. Marple Hall. Chadkirk.
8. Mottram Church. Tintwistle. Melandra and Mouslow Castles.
9. Wythenshaw Hall. Baguley Hall. Dunham Massey Church. Bowdon Church. Rostherne Church.
10. *Knutsford* old Church. Holford Hall. Mobberley Church. Over Peover Church and Hall. Nether Peover Church, black-and-white timbered. Tabley Old Hall.
11. *Northwich* Castle site. Budworth Church. Arley Chapel. Davenham Church. Middlewich Church. Kinderton (Roman stat. of Condate). Lea Hall. Vale Royal.
12. Merton Grange. Crowton Hall. Dutton Hall; or from Hartford Bridge to Delamere Forest, where examine Eddisbury Hill. Tumuli. Kelsborough Castle. Tarvin Church. Sleep at *Chester.*
13. Examine Chester.
14. Rowton Heath. Hatton. Huxley Hall. Beeston Castle. Tarporley Church. Bunbury Church. Sleep at Beeston.
15. Drive to Malpas, see Church. Cholmondeley Castle. Carden. Handley Church. Calverley Hall. *Chester.*
16. Eccleston Church. Eaton Hall. Saighton Grange. Dodlestone Church. Kinnerton Hall. Plemstall Church.
17. Frodsham Church. Rock Savage. Halton Church and Castle. Norton Priory. Daresbury Chapel. *Warrington.*
18. Wilderspool (Veratinum), Thelwall, Grappenhall, and Lymm Churches. East and West Leigh Halls and Chapel. Warrington Church.
19. By rail to Helsby. Ince Manor House. Site of Stanlaw Abbey. Thornton Hall and Church. Stotwick Church. Neston Church. *Birkenhead.*
20. Leasowe Castle. Hoylake.

IX. PEDESTRIAN TOURS.

I. SHROPSHIRE.

Tour

1. From *Ludlow* by Richard's Castle, Croft Ambrey, Wigmore. Returning by Elton and Mary Knoll. About 17 m.
2. From *Ludlow* to Burrington and Downton, returning by Bromfield. 11 to 12 m.
3. From Ludlow over the Clee Hills to *Cleobury Mortimer*. 11 m. By going on to Oreton and Farlow, some 4 m. longer.
4. From Cleobury Mortimer to *Bridgnorth*, by Kinlet and Billingsley. 13 m.
5. From Bridgnorth to *Wenlock*, by Broseley. Ironbridge. Coalbrook Dale, and Buildwas. 11 m.
6. From Wenlock to *Craven Arms*, down Corvedale. About 20 m.
7. From Craven Arms to Knighton by rail. Walk on to Clun, Bury Ditches, and *Bishop's Castle*. 14 m.
8. From Bishop's Castle to Hyssington, Stapeley Hill, Shelve, and *Minsterley*. 13 m.
9. From Minsterley to the Stiperstones, Ratlinghope, and over the Longmynd to *Church Stretton*. About 11 m.
10. From Church Stretton to Caer Caradoc, Acton Burnell, Pitchford, and Berrington Stat. 10 to 11 m.
11. *Shrewsbury* to Battlefield, Albright Hussey, Haughmond Abbey, Uffington Hill. 11 m.
12. By rail to Middletown Stat. Walk over the Breidden to Llandrinio, Llanymynach, Treonen, and *Oswestry*. 12 to 13 m.
13. From Oswestry by Frankton to Ellesmere. 7 m. By rail thence to Wrenbury. See Combermere Abbey, 6 m., and afterwards by rail to Nantwich and *Wellington*.
14. Ascend the Wrekin. 6 m. By rail to Shiffnal: then walk by Tonge and Boscobel to Albrighton Stat., 9 m., whence take train to *Wolverhampton*.

II. CHESHIRE.

Tour

1. Start from Whitchurch. Walk to Malpas and *Broxton Junct.* 10 m. See Carden.
2. From Broxton, over the Peckforton Hills, to Beeston and *Tarporley*. 9 m.
3. From Tarporley, across Delamere Forest, to *Frodsham*. 11 to 12 m.
4. From Frodsham to Northwich, 9 m.; or on to *Knutsford*, 15 m.
5. From Knutsford to Rostherne and Bowdon, 8 m.; or from Rostherne, follow up the Bollin to Wilmslow, about 6 or 7 m. Sleep at *Alderley*.
6. Over the Edge to Macclesfield. 6 m. Rail to *Congleton*, and see Congleton Edge. Astbury and Moreton Hall.
7. Rail to North Rode Stat. Walk to Broxton, 14 m., by Shutlingslow and Axe Edge.
8. Broxton to Disley, by Goyts Bridge, see Lyme Hall. Taxal Whaley Bridge. 10 to 11 m. Train to *Stockport*.
11. Stockport to Marple. *Glossop*. About 12 m.

HANDBOOK

FOR

SHROPSHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

ROUTES.

*** The names of places are printed in *italics* only in those routes where the *places* are described.

Route		Page
1	Hereford to Shrewsbury, by *Ludlow and Church Stretton*	2
2	Ludlow to *Bewdley*, by Wooferton, *Tenbury*, and *Cleobury Mortimer*	18
3	Ludlow to Wolverhampton, by the *Clee Hills* and Bridgnorth	22
4	Bewdley to Shrewsbury, by *Bridgnorth* and *Ironbridge*	25
5	*Clun* and District	34
6	Knighton to Wellington, by Craven Arms, *Wenlock*, and Coalbrook Dale	39
7	Wolverhampton to Nantwich, by *Shiffnal*, *Wellington*, and *Market Drayton*	44
8	*Shrewsbury* to Stafford, by Wellington and *Newport*	53
9	Shrewsbury to Bishop's Castle, by *Alberbury*, *Westbury*, *Chirbury*, and *Churchstoke*	71
10	Shrewsbury to Chirk	74
11	Oswestry to Shrewsbury, by *Llanymynech*, *Knockin*, and *Shrawardine*	76
12	Whittington Junct. to Whitchurch Junct., by *Ellesmere*	77
13	Shrewsbury to Nantwich, by *Wem* and *Whitchurch*	79
14	Whitchurch to *Stockport*, by *Nantwich*, *Crewe*, and *Alderley*	83
15	Crewe to Stockport, by *Harecastle*, *Congleton*, and *Macclesfield*	93
16	Buxton to Stockport, by *Whaley Bridge* and *Disley*	102
17	Buxton to Manchester, by New Mills, *Hyde*, and Guidebridge	105
18	Stafford to Warrington, by Crewe	108
19	Stockport to Penistone, by *Glossop*	110
20	Stockport to Warrington, by Altrincham and *Lymm*	112
21	Manchester to Chester, by *Altrincham*, *Northwich*, and *Delamere Forest*	117
22	Congleton to Northwich, by *Hulme* and *Middlewich*	128
23	Crewe to Chester, by *Beeston*	131
24	Whitchurch to *Chester*, by *Malpas*	134
25	Chester to Warrington, by *Frodsham*	147
26	Chester to *Birkenhead*	151

ROUTE 1.

FROM HEREFORD TO SHREWSBURY, BY LUDLOW AND CHURCH STRETTON (HEREFORD AND SHREWSBURY RLY.)

Rail.	Road.	Places.
		Hereford
19 m.		Wooferton Junct.
23½ m.		Ludlow
	Walk.	
	abt. 16 m.	High Vinnals, Croft Ambrey, Richard's Castle, and Orleton
		Ludlow
	3½ m.	Aston
	8 m.	Wigmore
	11 m.	Leintwardine
	15 m.	Hopton Heath Stat.
		Ludlow
26 m.		Bromfield
31 m.		Craven Arms Junct.
38 m.		Church Stretton
	Walk.	
	abt. 5 m.	Carding-mill Valley
	abt. 9 m.	Longmynd
	abt. 11 m.	Ratlinghope
	abt. 9 m.	Caradoc and Lawley
		Church Stretton
42 m.		Leebotwood
45 m.		Dorrington
46 m.		Condover
49 m.		Shrewsbury

* This mark is affixed to the names of places or objects of unusual interest.

The Hereford and Shrewsbury Railway, a joint line of the Great Western and London and North-Western Companies, quits Hereford by the Barr's Court Stat. (*Handbook for Herefordshire*), passes Leominster (13 m.) and crosses the Shropshire border between the villages of Brimfield and (19 m.) **Wooferton Junct.**,* whence a branch is given off on rt. to Tenbury and Bewdley. The rly. now enters the fertile and beautifully wooded valley of the Teme, which it crosses between the villages of Ashford Bowdler (rt. bank) and Ashford Carbonell (l. bank). On the l. bank are *Ashford Court* (Capt. C. C. Evan-Morgan) and *Ashford House* (Miss Hall). *Ashford Hall*, on rt. bank, is the seat of Felix Ludham, Esq. The line follows the bend of the Teme, leaving the *Sheet* (R. I. Dansey, Esq.) to the rt. A beautiful view of the town of Ludlow is obtained before entering the tunnel, in which the church, castle, and rocks by the river-side are prominent objects.

23½ m. **LUDLOW**,* "in Welsh Dinan and Llys-twysoc, that is, the Prince's Palace; 'tis seated upon a hill at the joyning of the Teme with the river Corve: a town of greater beauty than antiquity."—*Camden.* Ludlow is indeed splendidly situated on an amphitheatre of high ground, formed by the winding stream of the Teme just at its junction with the Corve. From the highest portion, on which are the ch. and castle, the streets descend on every side, and by their breadth and dignity bear evidence to its importance in the days when the county families of Shropshire thought it not unfashionable to spend the winter season within its precincts and mingle in its assemblies and Bailiff's Feasts.

"The towne doth stand most part upon a hill,
Built well and fayre, with streates both longe and wide;
The houses such, where straungers lodge at will,
As long as there the counsell lists abide.
Both fine and cleane the streates are all throughout,
With condits cleere and wholesome water springs;
And who that lists to walk the towne about
Shall find therein some rare and pleasant things;
But chiefly there the ayre so sweete you have
As in no place ye can no better crave."
Churchyard.

The early **HISTORY** of the town is altogether identified with that of the Castle,* which, since its erection in the 11th cent., has been the scene of much stormy action. It is of purely Norm. origin, and is said to have been begun by Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, the builder of the massive dongeon or keep, between 1086 and 1096, and completed by Joce (or Joyce) de Dinan in the reign of Henry I., by the rebellion of its possessors against whom it became a royal castle. In Stephen's time, the then governor joined the cause of Maud; and in the siege that followed, the Scottish Prince, whom Stephen had brought as his hostage, was nearly drawn within the walls by an enormous iron hook. In Henry II.'s reign the

castle was in the possession of Joce de Dinan, into whose household the second Fulke Fitz-Warine, son of the Lord of Whittington, was sent for education as a knight. A most romantic incident is recorded concerning Fulke, who was idling in the courtyard when the news came that Joce de Dinan had been attacked by Walter de Lacy, and was even then being overpowered in a hand-to-hand combat with him and 3 of his knights. Fulke, although too young to wear armour, seized a rusty helmet and a great Danish axe, and, flinging himself on the back of a cart-horse, spurred to the scene of action, where he laid about him with such vigour that he soon rescued Joce from his danger, and brought De Lacy in triumph as a prisoner to the castle. After this feat he married, a little later on, Hawyse, the daughter of Joce, and on the death of his father became Lord of Whittington. Ludlow Castle subsequently became the residence of Edward IV. and his infant children, the murderer of whom, Richard Duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard the Third, is said to have had his early education here; here too in Henry VII.'s reign, his elder son, Arthur Prince of Wales, died in 1502, after his marriage with Catherine of Aragon. From that period it was considered as the peculiar property of the Princes of Wales or their deputies, the Lords President of Wales, who held their Courts of the Marches with great dignity and splendour. "Also the 4 judges of the councill have their lodgings here, and they and the president dine together, their charges being borne by the kinge; they have their cooke and all their necessary attendants and keepe 4 termes every year, when all law suites are determined; they have within the said castell a prison, a bowlinge greene, a tenis court, and stable room for above 100 horses and quantitie of armes."—*Marmaduke Rawdon.*

The tenure of the Lords Marchers' office was peculiar, as the King's writ did not run in the Marches, but the Lord Marcher appointed his own sheriff. It was not the King's Peace, but the Lord Marcher's which malcontents broke: and this because though the King nominated the Marcher, he left him to fight his own battles and hold his position without other help, so that the deputy had almost plenary power. If but scanty evidence of this appears in charters, this arises from the King's reluctance to recognise such an "imperium in imperio" if he could help it.

This lasted until 1688, when the office was abolished and the castle allowed to go to decay. But this intermediate period was the height of Ludlow's glory. Here Charles I. was entertained with much feasting and revelling, and here it was that "Comus," one of Milton's most beautiful creations, was written and acted in 1634, on the occasion of the appointment of the Earl of Bridgewater to the office of President of Wales. The incident that gave rise to it was as follows. Soon after the Earl of Bridgewater's arrival as Lord President, his sons, Lord Brackley and Mr. Thomas Egerton, and his daughter, Lady Alice, were benighted in the Hay Wood (see Excursion, p. 7), near Richard's Castle, at a distance of some 3 m. from Ludlow, and separated from the hill of the High Vinnals by a lovely sylvan dingle. Here they were for a short time lost altogether. On their reaching Ludlow, Milton wrote his "Masque of Comus," which was then and there set to music by Henry Lawes, who, with the heroes of the adventure, took the principal parts. Sir Henry Sydney, father of Sir Philip Sydney, was the last occupant of the castle previous to its being taken by the parliamentary force in 1646. Sir Henry was President of the Council of Wales from 1559 to 1581, and at the Restoration this office was conferred on the Earl of Carbery, under whose patronage Samuel Butler enjoyed the office of steward or seneschal, and wrote, in a chamber over the gateway, the first portion of his "Hudibras."

From the eventful history of Ludlow, and the numerous people that tenanted it at various times, the so-called **Castle Palace**, as may readily be imagined, is of various dates in its style.

"An aunciente seate, yet many buildings newe Lord President made, to give it greater fame."

The ruins, as they stand at present, consist of a large base court or "*outer bailey*" encircled by walls, and are entered on the S. side by a gateway. To the l., as the visitor enters, is a range of Tudor buildings called the *Stabling*. On the W. side of the court is a semicircular tower, now used as a volunteer armoury. This is known as *Mortimer's Tower*, Hugh Mortimer having, according to tradition, been imprisoned there c. 1150. To the l. of this is the old *Court of Record* for the Marches. On the E. side of the court is a square tower, indicating the limit of the original Norm. castle. The inner court, approached by a drawbridge over a dry moat which divides it from the outer ward, is entered across a bridge of 2 arches, and by a gateway built by Sir Henry Sydney of Penshurst, who also added the coats of arms of Queen Elizabeth and himself with the Latin inscriptions over the gateway arch. In the *Middle Ward*, thus entered, are (1) the nave of the *chapel* of St. Mary Magdalene, built on the model of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, like the Temple Church, London, probably by Joce de Dinan, temp. Henry I. The chancel, which extended to the curtain wall of the

castle and had no E. window, has disappeared, but the chancel-arch, which is round-headed, remains, and opposite to it is the fine late Norm. W. door. The interior has a Norm. arcade of 14 arches. In Grose's time the chapel was profusely decorated with panels charged with armorial bearings, and was connected by a covered way with the state apartments. (2) Beyond the chapel is a range of buildings, which consist of (*a*), on the l., the *Buttery Tower*, occupying the N.W. angle of the ward. (*b*) In the centre, the *Hall* where "Comus" was performed. This fine room is 60 by 30 ft., and 35 ft. to the springing corbels of its former open timber roof. The recesses for the hammer-beams remain, and the corbels on which the principals rested. In the N. wall are 3 long narrow windows of one light each, trefoiled and crossed by a heavy transom, and in the S. are also 3, looking upon the court. These are of two lights, trefoiled and crossed by a transom. (*c*) On the rt. are the *state rooms*, of Dec. architecture, with windows also of Perp. and Tudor periods. Projecting from this part of the castle is the *Garderobe Tower*, and at the angle between the middle and outer wards is the *North-east Tower*, rectangular in plan and of Norm. date.

(3) Against the wall of the inner court (*i.e.* opposite to the Buttery Tower) is the *kitchen*, a rectangular building of the Dec. period.

In the *Inner Ward*, which is entered by a doorway beyond the kitchen, are—(1) on the rt. the *Postern Tower*; (2) near this the *well*, now 85 ft. deep, but formerly 150. It is fed by a spring in Whitecliffe Woods, whence Sir H. Sydney laid a lead pipe. (3) In the l. corner, facing the well, the *Oven Tower*, which is Norm. (4) On the rt. the *keep*, which consists of a basement and three floors. The basement possesses in the portion nearest to the door some Norm. arcades and has been called the chapel, the further portion being described as the dungeon. Mr. Clark is, however, very doubtful as to what may have been the real purpose of these rooms. There is an admirable view from the summit of the keep.

The **Church**,* dedicated to St. Lawrence, is one of the noblest parish churches in England. It is a fine late Perp. building, with a lofty tower, which, from its own height and the elevation of the ground, is a very conspicuous landmark for miles around. It is cruciform, having nave, side aisles, choir, transepts, and side chapels, with the lofty central tower rising from the intersection.

The original ch. seems, in the 12th cent., to have occupied the site of the chancel of the present ch. The rebuilding was carried on several years into the 13th cent., and additions were made early and late in the 14th cent., when the guild of Palmers incorporated in Edward I.'s reign at Ludlow became rich, and the ch. collegiate, but it is plain that a Norm. building existed previously, and that its extent was identical with that of the present nave. It is said that, when this ch. was enlarged, the "low" or mound which gave the town a portion of its name (Leode-hlœw, or the people's hill) was levelled and bones discovered in it. These were stated by the clergy to be the bones of St. Brendan, with those of his father and mother. The ch. was then enlarged, and during the process of restoration, in 1860, by the late *Sir G. G. Scott*, the foundations of this old 12th-cent. ch., which preceded the present one, were discovered.

The S. entrance is by a beautiful hexagonal embattled *porch*, something like that of St. Mary Redcliffe ch., Bristol. This was restored by Lord Boyne. The view from the W. door is very fine, embracing the nave and chancel arches, the lantern, 80 ft. high, and the magnificent stained E. window. The *nave* is divided from the aisles by 6 pointed arches, springing from clustered pillars. The roof is of oak, ornamented with large gilt bosses, and that of the choir is illuminated with green and red. The *choir* is lighted by 7 Perp. windows, containing full-length figures of bishops and other ecclesiastics; but the chief glory of the ch. is the E. window, representing the

martyrdom of St. Lawrence. It was originally the gift of Spofford, Bishop of Hereford 1421–1448, and, after undergoing great mutilation, was well restored, in 1828, by *Evans* of Shrewsbury. It occupies the whole breadth of the chancel, and is in 65 compartments, displaying the life, miracles, and martyrdom of the saint, including his being broiled on a gridiron. Notice the 7th compartment, in which the idols are represented as falling to pieces in his presence. Beneath the window is a beautiful carved stone reredos, restored by subscription at the instance of the last Lord Dungannon. Behind the altar is a passage, entered by a door on the S. side of the W. wall and under the window. In this passage is a leper window, which can be seen from outside. Among the monuments in the choir are recumbent effigies of Edm. Walter and his wife. He was chief justice of three shires in Wales, and one of the Council of the Marches in 1592. There are also monuments to Ambrosia Sydney, fourth daughter of the Rt. Hon. Sir H. Sydney, President of the Council, and to Lady Mary, his wife, daughter of the Duke of Northumberland, who died in Ludlow Castle, 1574. Within the *Easter Sepulchre*, N. of the altar, is the tomb of Sir Robt. Townsend and his wife, dated 1581. The canopies of the choir, of carved oak, are a memorial to the Rev. J. Phillips, a late rector and energetic restorer of the ch., by his widow. To the S. of the altar are four sedilia and a piscina; and on each side the chancel are stalls, with numerous well-carved miserere seats, for the officiating priests of the adjoining *chapel of St. John*. This is N. of the choir, and is entered from the transept by a carved screen. It contains some well-restored 15th-cent. glass, the most westerly window having the Annunciation above and SS. Catherine, John the Baptist, and Christopher below. The next two windows contain the Twelve Apostles, each with the sentence of the Creed assigned by tradition to them near them on a scroll. Here also are the tombs of Sir John Brydgeman, chief justice of Cheshire, and his wife. He was the last President but one of the Court of the Marches. They are conjectured to have been the work of *Fanelli*, who was much employed in England during the reign of Charles I. The *S. chapel* contains a much-restored Jesse window. Here also, on the N. wall, are a well-preserved set of the Commandments, written in the 16th cent. In the *N. transept* is a fine organ by *Schweuzer*, and in the S. transept is a recumbent monument to Dame Mary Eyre, wife of Lord Eyre, President of the Marches. The W. seven-light window (by *Willement*) is modern, and is filled with mediæval figures of persons connected with the history of Ludlow, such as Richard, Duke of York; Edward IV.; Arthur, Prince of Wales; Montgomerie, Fitzwarine, Joce de Dinan, &c. The ch.-yd., which is supported on the N. by a portion of the old wall, is beautifully kept and planted, and commands a noble view up the vales of the Corve and Ony, with the Titterstone and Brown Clee Hills on the E. Within its precincts is a fine old **timbered house**, of the date of the 17th cent., as testified by the inscription on it of "A.D. 1616, Thomas Kaye." It is the official residence of the Reader, who, however, does not occupy it. On the opposite side is the *Hosier Almshouse*, for old widows and widowers, originally founded in 1486. The approach to the ch. from the town at its S. entrance is by a passage now crowded with houses, but still retaining the name of the "Skallens" or "Kalends," which Sir G. C. Lewis and other inquirers in "Notes and Queries" have indubitably identified with the ancient lych gate.

The **Lane Asylum** is another timbered house, date 1672. It was built from moneys left by the Ludford family, and is still kept up partly from this fund and partly by subscription.

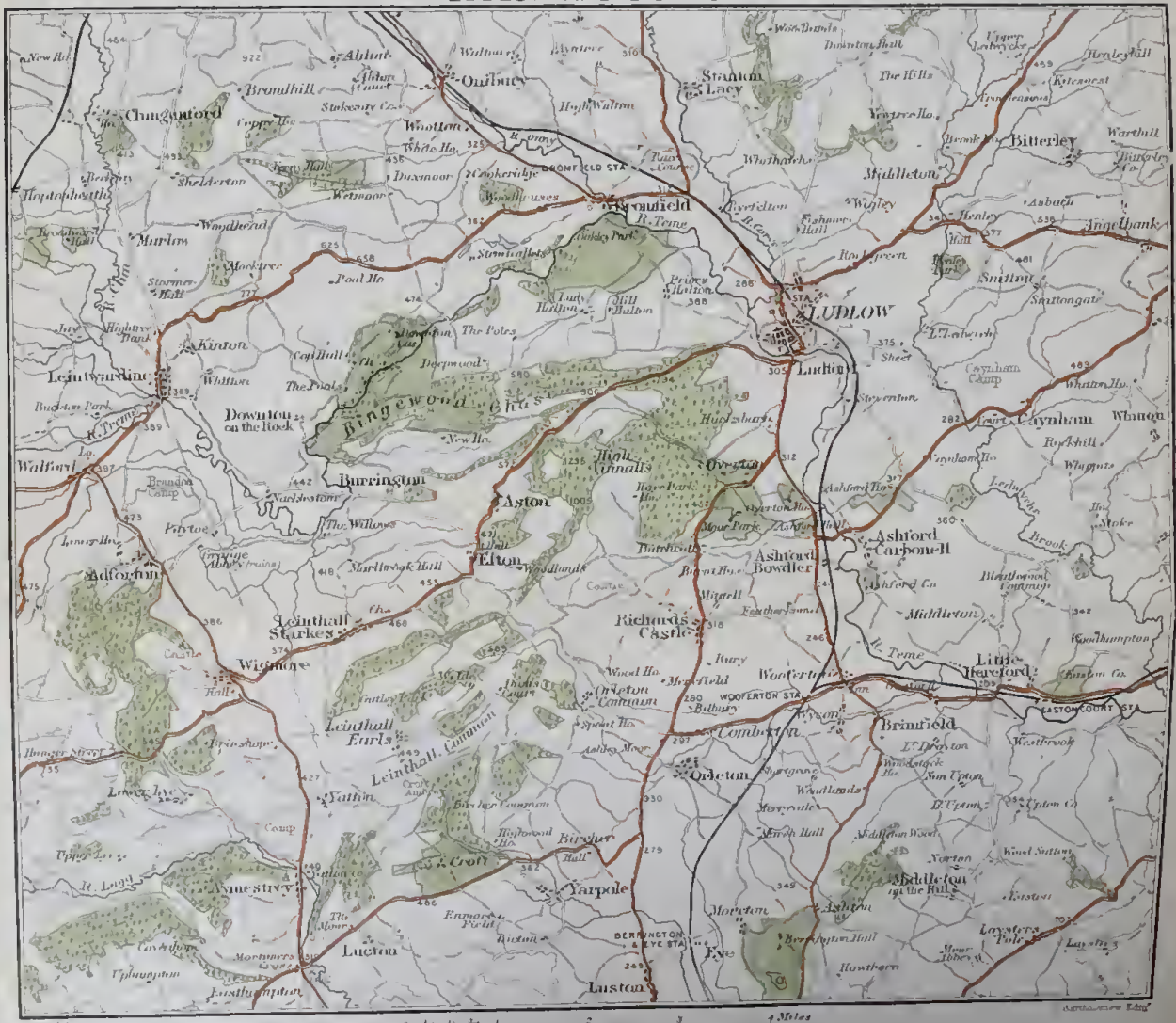
An antique furniture store near the castle was formerly the chapel of St. Mary by the Dinham Gate, which stood here, and still contains moulded ribs of the date of the 12th cent., also blocked Norm. arches.

The **Grammar School** is the oldest in the county, and was founded by the Palmers' Guild, to whom the town owes the church and other ecclesiastical charities. A master and usher represent the school foundation, whilst the ch. is indebted to the guild for a lecturer and a reader, in supplement of the rector and his curates. Amongst the alumni of this ancient foundation school may be named the late Thomas Wright, M.A. and F.S.A., the author of the History of Ludlow, the History (for the Camden Society) of its Churchwardens' Accounts, and various other antiquarian and archæological works. The charter of this guild was given by Edward I.; but when it was dissolved in the reign of Edward VI., all its charities were transferred to the town and vested in the corporation. Amongst other old buildings is the Bull Inn, containing some good panelling; also the Feathers Hotel, a quaint, old-fashioned black-and-white timbered hostelry. This fine old house is dated 1603, and is said to have been built for a Lord Justice of the Marches. The coffee-room contains a carved oak fireplace on which are the royal arms and the letters I.R. Of the 7 gates by which Ludlow was formerly entered, only one is left, about halfway down Broad Street, on the road to Ludford. At the top of Broad Street is the **Butter Cross**, a building now appropriated to the borough records. Ludlow also contained an establishment for Austin friars, 1282, and one for Carmelite friars. A house in Old Street, now in the occupation of a grocer, Mr. Bishop, contains a good oak and plaster ceiling and oak panelling which are said to have come from the castle. There is a large modern market hall.

The **Museum**, adjoining the Assembly Rooms, is interesting, and contains an unusually fine collection of fossils, principally of the Silurian rocks in the neighbourhood, which have been thoroughly investigated by the local geologists and the Woolhope Natural History Society. The visitor will find very good specimens of Old Red fishes, including Pteraspis and Eurypterus. There are also some antiquities from Uriconium, and some MSS. belonging to the old Ludlow guilds of the Hammermen's and Stitchers' Companies, with the money-boxes in which their contributions were placed. Amongst the natives of Ludlow was Mr. Thomas Johnes, of Hafod, who flourished in the last cent., and was the translator of Froissart's "Chronicles." Mr. Stanley Weyman, the well-known author, is now a resident in the town.

Immediately across the river Teme, which here separates Shropshire from a small nook and corner of Herefordshire, is the House of **Ludford**, the old-fashioned seat of the Charltons (R. J. B. Parkinson, Esq.), which formed part of the Hospital of St. John in the 13th cent., founded by a burgess of Ludlow named Peter Undergood, and endowed with St. Giles's House in Ludford. It was granted after the Dissolution to the Earl of Warwick, of whom it was purchased by William Fox, M.P., Secretary to the Council of the Marches, who added a chantry to Ludford Church, within which he was buried in 1554, and by his family sold, in 1667, to the Charltons, a branch of the family of Apley Castle, near Wellington. Of this ancient family were Sir Robert Charlton, who suffered much by his loyalty to Charles I.; Sir Job Charlton, Speaker in 1685 and a Judge of the Common Pleas, who entertained James II. here in great state in 1687, and was by that monarch created a baronet, a title which became extinct in 1784. Sir Job founded a hospital here in 1672 for poor persons. From the last of the Charltons the property passed, about forty years ago, to

LUDLOW AND DISTRICT



John Lechmere, their cousin, the second son of Vice-Admiral Lechmere of Steeple Aston, and after him to his sister Mrs. Monro. The ancient house is approached through an Edwardian archway leading into a quadrangle, chiefly of offices. The reception rooms face the lawn or garden front. The *ch.* contains Sir Job's effigy, reclining in his judicial robes; and there are other noticeable tablets. On the E. side of the N. aisle is an old altar-slab, converted into a tomb; and here also is a brass of 1500, with an English (pre-Reformation) inscription. The bridge which connects the two counties is very ancient, and has exceedingly prominent piers with recesses above on each side. It is mentioned by Leland. "There be three fayre arches in this bridge over Teme, and a pretty chapel upon it of St. Catherine. It is about a hundred years since this bridge was built; men passed afore by a ford a little beneath."

The geology of the Ludlow district is especially interesting, but it will be sufficient here to direct attention to the salient points, of which details are given in the *Introduction* (p. 12).

At Ludford are displayed "the upper beds, forming the downward passage from the Old Red system; yellowish sandstones, of a very fine grain and slightly micaceous. The central part of the stratum is a battered mass of scales, ichthyodorulites, jaws, teeth, and coprolites of fishes. These, together with a few smaller testacea, are united by a gingerbread-coloured cement. Many of the imbedded fragments are of a jet-black polish, others of a deep mahogany hue."—*Siluria.*

The cliffs on the W. side of the Teme are remarkably fine and precipitous, the ground on the summit of Whitecliffe being laid out with pleasant walks and seats. Here are also some earthworks.

Excursions:—

(1) To High Vinnals, Croft Ambrey, Richard's Castle, and Orleton (about 16 m.) Cross the bridge, and turn to the rt. opposite Ludford House on to Whitecliffe; the road should then be followed, which ascends the beautiful hill of Mary Knoll, or St. Mary's Knoll, so called because a large figure of the Blessed Virgin stood here in Catholic times. At the summit Bringewood Chase stretches away to the rt., and High Vinnals is seen on the l. Descend the hill and take the first turn on the l., up a rough narrow lane (about 2½ m. from Ludlow). A footpath leads from this to the wood on the side of *High Vinnals*, which should be traversed until the opposite (E.) side is reached. Here there is a fine view over N. Herefordshire. The path leads along the edge of the wood, which lies to the rt. To the l. in a charming valley is *Hay Park*, in the wood on the edge of which the incident occurred which gave rise to "Comus" (see p. 3). Continue the path until a farm lying to the rt. is reached. By descending the valley to the l. **Richard's Castle** may be reached. Before arriving at the castle itself a small spring of water at the base of the rock, the so-called *Bony Well*, is passed. "Beneath this castle, Nature, which nowhere disporteth itself more in stirring wonders than in waters, hath brought forth a pretty well, which is always full of little fish-bones, or as some think of small frog-bones, although they be from time to time drawn quite out of it, whence it is called Bonewell."—*Camden.*

Drayton also notices it:

> "With strange and sundry tales
> Of all their wondrous things: and not the least of Wales;
> Of that prodigious spring (his wondering as he past)
> That little fishes bones continually doth cast."
> 7th Book.

This phenomenon is explained by Sir R. Murchison. "It results from the usual sloping position of the Ludlow Rocks, which, whilst it desiccates the higher parts of the ridges,

tends to produce natural springs near the foot of these inclined planes, wherever the strata are affected by faults near the junction of the rock and old red sandstone. The faults, however, act here particularly as dams to the water, and occasion springs."

From whatever cause the well may have obtained its name, there are now no bones to be seen in it.

A short distance beyond the well, and almost completely hidden by high trees and thick undergrowth, are the scanty remains of the **Castle**, erected in the reign of Edward the Confessor, probably by Richard Scrupe or Scrob, whose grandson, Hugo Fitz Osborne, in the reign of Henry I., married Eustachia de Saye, and left her surname to his descendants, one of whom married a Mortimer. Sir John Talbot, a member of the Eccleswall line, was the son of Sir Richard Talbot by Joan de Mortimer, a coheiress of Richard's Castle: which was granted by Edward VI. to Nicholas Bishop of Worcester, and leased to Rowland Bradshaw; by him it was sold (according to Blount) to Richard Salway, in whose family it still continues. The mound upon which the castle was erected is of great size, being 60 ft. in height, with a platform 30 ft. in diameter, and appears to be entirely artificial. "The great interest of the place is due to its very remarkable **Earthworks**, and to the fact that it was occupied and fortified by a Norman master before the Conquest."—*Clark.*

The old **Church**, a fine structure adjoining the castle, has some beautiful painted glass in the heads of the windows of the N. transept. It is also memorable as having a detached belfry, formerly surmounted by a spire, which was destroyed by fire before the time of Blount's MS. History.

There is a new **Church** some distance further down the valley (Norman Shaw, R.A., archt.) The path below the castle should now be taken and followed up the hill, until a round hill, High Cullis, is reached, the road on the l. side of which should be followed to Leinthall Earls Here a road on the l. leads straight up to **Croft Ambrey**.* This remarkable British fortress is elliptical in shape, the bank on the N. being mostly natural, whilst on the S. is a double ditch and rampart, now overgrown, though not obliterated, by fine trees. As in the case of many other places (*e.g.* Ambresbury in Epping Forest), the name is supposed to have been derived from that of Aurelius Ambrosius, a Romano-British hero; but it is exceedingly doubtful whether the etymology is correct. On the southern slopes of the Ambrey is **Croft Castle**, the beautiful residence of the Rev. E. L. Kevill Davies, and the seat of the ancient family of Croft from the days of Edward the Confessor to the reign of George III., when it was sold by Sir H. Croft to Mr. Johnes, who made this picturesque spot his residence before he lavished his wealth on Hafod. Sir John Croft, who married a daughter of Owain Glyndwr—Sir Jas. Croft, a distinguished soldier in the reigns of Mary and Elizabeth, condemned for a participation in Wyatt's rebellion, but pardoned by Elizabeth and afterwards entrusted by her with very important offices—and Herbert Croft, Bishop of Hereford 1661–91, were each proprietors of this estate.

Leaving the Ambrey by its entrance, which is at the N.E. extremity, the path should be followed to a gate. Pass through this and keep along the plantation to its termination. Turning round the end of the wood to the rt., a gate will be seen leading on to a fern-covered common. Keep the path to the l. of this until some cottages are passed. A gate will then be seen, from which on the rt. a steepish, rough road descends, with a high bank on the rt. side and a tiny stream on the l. This road should be followed to *Orleton*, 5 m. from Ludlow. This was the birthplace of Adam de

Orleton, Bishop of Hereford 1317-27, one of the most active agents of the barons in their wars against Edward II. When application was made to him by the governors of Berkeley in reference to the murder of the king, he is said to have returned this oracular reply, the ambiguity of which lies in its optional punctuation:—

"Edvardum occidere nolite timere bonum est."

Having gained the favour of Edward III. so far as to be employed as ambassador to France, he was translated to Winchester diocese, where he died 1345. Thomas Blount, author of "Jocular Tenures," a "Law Dictionary," and other works, was a native of this parish, and died here 1679. **Orleton Court** (J. R. Hill, Esq.) is an old timber mansion of the 16th cent., curious for its external quaintness as well as the arched and panelled beams and fine carved mantelpieces of its principal chambers. Another and earlier timbered house of 8 gables claims to have given birth to Adam de Orleton. From Orleton the tourist may proceed to *Wooferton Junct.* Stat., and by rail to Ludlow.

(2) To **Wigmore, Leintwardine, and Hopton Castle** (about 14 m.)—The same road should be traversed as in the first excursion, but instead of turning up to ascend High Vinnals, the main road is to be continued to *Aston* (3½ m.), close to which are two tumuli. The nave of the **Church** is a good specimen of Norm. architecture; there is a transition chancel arch and an E. Eng. chancel. The tympanum of the N. door is finely carved, representing above the pelican in her piety, and below, in a circular compartment, the lamb and flag, supported by an eagle and a winged bull (*i.e.* SS. John and Luke). The S. door, which is blocked, is also Norm. There is a lesser window in the chancel, where is also the bowl of the ancient Norm. font.

5 m. Elton and *Elton Hall* (W. V. King, Esq.)

6¼ m. *Leinthall Starkes*, with some fine yews in the ch.-yd.

[1½ m. to the rt. is *Burrington* on the Teme, where fine specimens of the trilobite *Calymene Blumenbachii* have been found.]

8 m. **Wigmore,*** a decayed town, once the abode of the warlike Mortimers. The castle of this family, which occupies such a distinguished place in the annals of English history, and which ultimately obtained the Crown in the person of Edward IV., stands on a commanding eminence beyond and above the church and town, a ruin the remains of which are sufficient to show the strength and importance of this once princely residence. The outward wall is the most perfect, though of this a very considerable part is destroyed. Within the area, on a high artificial hill, are the remains of the keep, chiefly consisting of massive fragments overlooking the country to the N. and E. When the original fortress was founded is unknown; but there was certainly a mound here before the time of Edward the Elder, who is recorded to have repaired Wigmore. Mr. G. T. Clark considers that a Norm. lord, at the end of the 11th or beginning of the 12th cent., first superseded the timber palisades of the English keep with a polygonal keep, and the curtain walls of the inner ward. Much of the extant masonry, with the exception of the Norm. shell-keep and wall, is of Dec. date, mostly built originally on the Norm. outlines. In the early 14th cent. the whole was restored in a complete and substantial fashion. "It is impossible to contemplate the massive ruins of Wigmore Castle, situate on a hill in an amphitheatre of mountains, whence its owner could survey his vast estates, from his square palace with 4 corner towers, on a keep at the S.W. corner of his double-trenched outworks, without reflecting on the instability of the grandeur of a family whose ambition and intrigues made more than one English mon-

arch uneasy on his throne; yet not a memorial remains of their sepulture."—*Camden.*

The immense estates of the Mortimers continued part of the royal domain until the 17th cent., when Wigmore and a large tract of the surrounding country was granted to the Harleys, of whom the Lord Treasurer, on his elevation to the peerage, was created Earl of Oxford, Earl Mortimer, and Baron Harley of Wigmore.

The **Church**, formerly attached to the wealthy abbey, founded 1179 for monks of the order of St. Austin, was of Norm. architecture; but only slight traces of this date remain, the structure largely belonging to the Dec. period. Some herring-bone masonry can be seen in places. There is a fair roof, and the sanctus bell hangs still in its turret.

The Grange which represents the **Abbey** of Wigmore lies a mile or so to the N. of the old town and castle. Near the farmhouse occupying the site of the Abbey are a few remnants of the ch. where Hugh de Mortimer, its founder, who died an Augustinian canon, was buried in front of the high altar. Here a tesselated pavement was recently discovered. The windows of the Abbot's hall still remain, and there are many fragments of old carving in the house and buildings. The great barn was destroyed by fire about 1889. There is a fine stone archway surmounted by a half-timbered building. A building near the gate of the farm is locally called the gaol, but its real purpose is somewhat doubtful.

11 m. **Leintwardine**, ✡ a well-built village pleasantly situated at the junction of the Teme with the Clun. It occupies the site of the Roman station Bravinium, and is traversed by the so-called Watling Street (see p. 14). Roman bricks and pottery, with other relics, have been found in the village; a mile and a half from which, across the river, is *Brandon Camp*, while *Coxwall Knoll*, a Silurian battle-ground, lies on the Shropshire bank of the Teme, nearer to Walford and Brampton Bryan.

The Perp. **Church**, restored in 1865, is a handsome building, consisting of a lofty nave, with clerestory, aisles, chancel, and good sedilia. The steeple is over the S. porch. The font is of earlier date. In the chancel is a monument to Gen. Sir B. Tarleton, M.P. for Liverpool, 1790–1812. There are the remains of a fine coloured reredos, and a quantity of old oak stalls and canopies formerly belonging to Wigmore have been brought here. On the l., between Leintwardine and Hopton, Bedstone Court (C. J. Clarke, Esq.)

15 m. **Hopton Heath Stat.** About 1 m. beyond the stat. is **Hopton Castle**, standing in the centre of a field, traversed by a little brook from which doubtless the moats, traces of which can be seen, were formerly supplied. This place, the Opetune of Domesday, was a fief of Clun. In 1255 it was held by Walter de Hopton, who was bound to provide for the defence of Clun Castle one soldier all the year round and a second for forty days in time of war. The family seems to have remained at Hopton till the reign of Elizabeth, but the castle was still standing and of sufficient strength to be held for King Charles in the 17th cent. It was taken after a gallant resistance and dismantled. The castle consists of a single quadrangular tower, all of one date, probably the work of Walter de Hopton (d. 1304 or 5), and is much more like a Scotch than an English edifice. The doorway had a triangular hood, and there was never any portcullis, only a strong door.

The traveller will return from here to the stat.

(3) To **Downton.**—The Wigmore road is followed over Mary Knoll to within 1 m. of Aston, then turn to the rt. over Burrington Common and cross the Teme at Bow Bridge to the village of **Downton**, beautifully situated on the l. bank of the Teme, which here serpentines through a

most picturesque glen. There is a camp immediately opposite the bridge.

About 1½ m. higher up the glen, and 6 m. from Ludlow, is **Downton Castle** (A. J. Rouse Boughton Knight, Esq.), erected 1774–78 by the celebrated scholar, Richard Payne Knight, and subsequently the seat of his brother, Andrew Knight, 27 years president of the Royal Horticultural Society, to whom the horticulture of England and the Pomona of Herefordshire are so largely indebted. The castle stands on an elevated bank, surrounded by an extensive amphitheatre of wood, admitting occasional peeps over a varied and beautiful country. The building is composed of a micaceous sandstone, raised on the estate, and is ornamented with Gothic towers and battlements without, and with Grecian ceilings, colours, and entablatures within—a singularity of formation which entailed much severe criticism on the taste of the classic owner. In a subsequent publication, "An Analytical Enquiry into the Principles of Taste," he observed, "that though his example had not been much followed, he had every reason to congratulate himself upon the success of the experiment, he having at once the advantage of a picturesque object and of an elegant and convenient building, though less perfect in both respects than if he had executed it at a maturer age. It has, moreover, the advantage of receiving alterations and additions in almost every direction, without any injury to its genuine and original character." The castle was somewhat altered by the present owner, who substituted stone mullions for the sash windows. The interior is fitted up with great taste, and there is a well-selected gallery of pictures.

The course of the Teme through the grounds, a length of 3 m., is surpassed in the beauty and wildness of its scenery by very few spots in England.

"The best approach to ev'ry beauteous scene
Is when it's least expected or foreseen;
Where nought occurs to anticipate surprise
Or bring the landscape piecemeal to the eyes."—*R. P. Knight.*

The so-called Downton walks abound in rare lichens and fungi.

The rustic bridge at the Hay Mill has almost a Swiss character. On the banks of the Teme, below the castle, are the remains of an iron forge, from which large fortunes were derived by the grandfather of Mr. Payne Knight, and his partner Mr. Walter. The ore was in those days conveyed by horses and mules from Staffordshire to be smelted in the timber-abounding district of Downton.

Hence the tourist may either follow the road to Ludlow by Oakley Park and Bromfield, or proceed to *Hopton Heath Stat.*

Further excursions may be made from Ludlow to:—(4) **Stokesay** by rail (Rte. 1). (5) By Bitterley to **Clee Hills**, returning by Caynham (Rte. 3). (6) To **Tenbury** by rail *viâ* Wooferton Junct. (Rte. 2).

From Ludlow the rly. continues its course, N.W., up the vale of the Teme for a short distance, and then up that of the Ony. A mineral branch to Clee Hill is given off on the rt. immediately after leaving the station, and the Corve is crossed close to its junction with the Teme.

26 m. (from Hereford) is **Bromfield Stat.**, the Ludlow racecourse being hard by on rt. The field in which it lies is called the *Old Field*, and contains two tumuli, called, like a pair on the Longmynd, Robin Hood's Butts. The village is to the l., and contains an interesting **Church** belonging to the ancient *Priory* of *Bromfield*. It consists of E. Eng. nave with N. aisle, and a tower at the W. end of the aisle, its lower portion forming a porch. At the E. and N. of the chancel are two large plain Norm. blocked arches, showing apparently that the ch. was once cruciform. On the S. side of the ch. are some

domestic buildings, probably remnants of a house built out of the conventual erection. There is also an arched gateway remaining. Bromfield was a Benedictine monastery, founded early in the 12th cent., and was annexed to the Abbey of St. Peter's, at Gloucester, in 1155. A chapelry (Halford) of Bromfield, an old ch., with nave, chancel and small tower, lies nearer Craven Arms on the bank of the Teme. Close to Bromfield village is

Oakley Park (Baron Windsor, whose father's family has been seated here since the reign of Henry II.) In the interior of the house, which is beautifully situated, overlooking the Teme, is a gallery, supporting an entablature, the frieze of which is taken from the Phygalian marbles discovered by Mr. Cockerell. The park is splendidly wooded, and contains some oaks known as "the Druidical Oaks." There is also much fine ornamental timber, including Spanish chestnut, silver spruce firs, *Pinus cembra*, *P. Douglasii*, *Wellingtonia gigantea*, &c., besides groves and clumps of very ancient oaks.

Nearly 1 m. rt. of the stat., on the border of the Corve, is **Staunton Lacy**, described in Domesday as belonging to Roger de Lacy, with whose powerful family it remained till two coheiresses, Matilda and Margaret, in 1241 carried the de Lacy lands to John de Verdon and Geoffrey de Genevill. The **Church** * is cruciform, and is earlier than the Conquest. In the nave and N. transept is pre-Conquest work, marked by the characteristic pilastering. In the N. side of the nave is a round-headed pre-Conquest door surmounted by a plain cross of similar date. The chancel is E. Eng. "Here are some very important Dec. alterations. From the lantern arches being of that date, while the upper part of the tower is E. Eng., we may infer that the upper part was an addition to the Romanesque structure, and that it was afterwards underpinned and the Dec. arches inserted. At the same time a S. aisle was added to the nave, and other alterations made in detail."—*Camb. Arch. Journ.* The ch. has been restored, and possesses a handsome reredos, a pulpit of Caen stone, and a stained-glass window by *Evans*. On the exterior are several recessed tombs containing mutilated recumbent effigies. This interesting ch. possesses more traces of pre-Conquest work than any other in the county.

"Stanton Lacy was formerly free from hundredal subjection. Its seigneural lords claimed to have a gallows, to hold pleas of bloodshed and hue and cry and to assize beer: as well as under writ of right to try all civil causes within their jurisdiction."—*Anderson.*

28 m. At *Onibury Stat.* the dale becomes contracted and very prettily wooded to

31 m. **Craven Arms Junct.**, where the Central Wales, the Bishop's Castle, and the Wenlock rlys. join the main line (Rte. 6). On the hill to the l. is *Sibdon Castle*, the seat of the Rev. H. F. Baxter, M.A. The antiquary must retrace his steps for 1 m. to the fine old castle of ✲ **STOKESAY**,* an extremely interesting relic, which is a striking object on the rt. of the rly. This is one of the finest examples in England of a castellated mansion of the 13th cent.—a record existing, in 1291, of "permission given to Lawrence de Ludlow to crenellate his castle of Stokesay."

Leland speaks of "Stokesay belonging to the Ludlowes, now the Verdons, builded like a castell," as being "in the way betwixt Ludlo and Bishop's Castle." During the Civil War it was garrisoned for the king, but surrendered to the Parliamentarians after a short siege.

The **castle** is entirely surrounded by a moat which has an average breadth of 22 ft., and there is a fine half-timbered gatehouse furnished with a door of great strength. The carvings on this house are very fine and include Adam and Eve, the serpent, and the forbidden fruit.

Opposite the gate is the *Hall*, 53 ft. 4 in. by 31 ft. 5 in., and 34 ft. to the rooftree. It is lit by windows of E. Eng. tracery, some of which are provided with window seats. At the N. end of the hall there is a flight of steps downwards into a room containing a well. This is one of the most ancient portions of the building. In the interior of the hall and at the same end a staircase of great age leads to the upper rooms. The first set are called the *priest's rooms*, and consist of two apartments. In the floor of the inner of these are laid many ancient tiles. The upper story consists of a large irregular room, which was formerly subdivided; it possesses a half-timbered projection resting on brackets projecting from the wall, which from the exterior reminds one of the stern cabins of an ancient man-of-war. In this room is a fine fireplace which has lost its hood, an ambry in the wall, and a case containing a few objects discovered when the moat was cleared out. Returning to the courtyard, a set of stone stairs at the S. end of the hall, above which there is a dripstone indicating the former existence of a roof, leads to the *solar* or withdrawing room, a beautiful room in which there is the remains of much fine wainscotting formerly coloured and gilt, and an admirable Jacobean oak chimney-piece—on either side of this is a small window by means of which the occupants of the solar could see what was going on in the hall. Once more returning to the courtyard the great S. *Tower* should be visited. This structure is 66 ft. in height, and consists of several stories, each provided with fireplace and garderobe. The walls are 6 ft. thick, and the battlements on the roof consist of embrasures alternating with loopholes. There is a small watchtower at the N. extremity. The castle is the property of H. J. Allcroft, who has very carefully repaired those portions which were falling into decay. Close to the castle is the **Church**, which has a Norm. door on the S. side, and possesses two fine canopied pews of the 17th cent.

Craven Arms ✠ (31 m.), an important junct. for the Shrewsbury and Hereford, Knighton, Much Wenlock, and Bishop's Castle line. From here the pedestrian can visit *Norton Camp*, placed on the brow of a wooded hill to the E. In order to reach it the Corvedale road should be taken. After a bridge has been crossed, take the first stile on the rt., and follow the footpath to and through the wood until the vallum of the camp is reached. Keep this to the rt. until the single entrance on the S.E. is reached. The interior is clear of trees, and the visitor will now be able to see the shape of the camp, which is that of a horseshoe. The curved portion is surrounded by an artificial vallum, and the straight side is formed by a natural steep bank. Cross the enclosure to a gate on the opposite side, leave the camp, and turn along a footpath to the l. until a clearing with an iron seat is reached. Here there is a charming view of Stokesay overhung by an eminence called *View Edge*, on which are also some earthworks, and of the valleys leading to Clun, Knighton, and Bishop's Castle. A steep path leads downwards to a small cave called the *Giant's Chair*. Beyond this the footpath may be followed to the main road.

From Craven Arms, Corve Dale (see Rte. 6) and Wenlock Edge (see Rte. 6) may be explored. In this neighbourhood have been found *Lathræa squamaria* (Norton Camp), *Myrrhis odorata* (Stokesay), *Epipactis grandiflora*, *Paris quadrifolia*, *Polygonum viviparum*, *Astrantia major* (Stoke Wood).

At the village of **Wistanstow**, a little farther on, where the nave and transepts of the fine old cruciform churches have recently undergone restoration, and a carved oak roof of Perp. work has been brought to light, the branch to Much Wenlock is given off on rt. (Rte. 6). *The Grove* (H. D. Greene, Esq., Q.C., M.P.)

On the rt., on the summit of a wooded eminence, Dinchope Hill, is a modern tower, *Flounder's Folly.*

At 36 m. **Marshbrook Stat.**, the valley begins to close in again.

On rt., 1 m., is **Acton Scott** *Ch.* and *Hall* (A. Wood Acton, Esq.) It was formerly the residence of Mrs. Stackhouse Acton, one of the daughters of T. Andrew Knight of Downton Castle, a contributor to the illustrations of his "Pomona Herefordensis" and authoress of "Old Shropshire Houses." Acton Scott Hall is said to have been built in 1567 by Edward Acton, and its resemblance to the White Hall, Shrewsbury, began in 1576, favours this surmise.

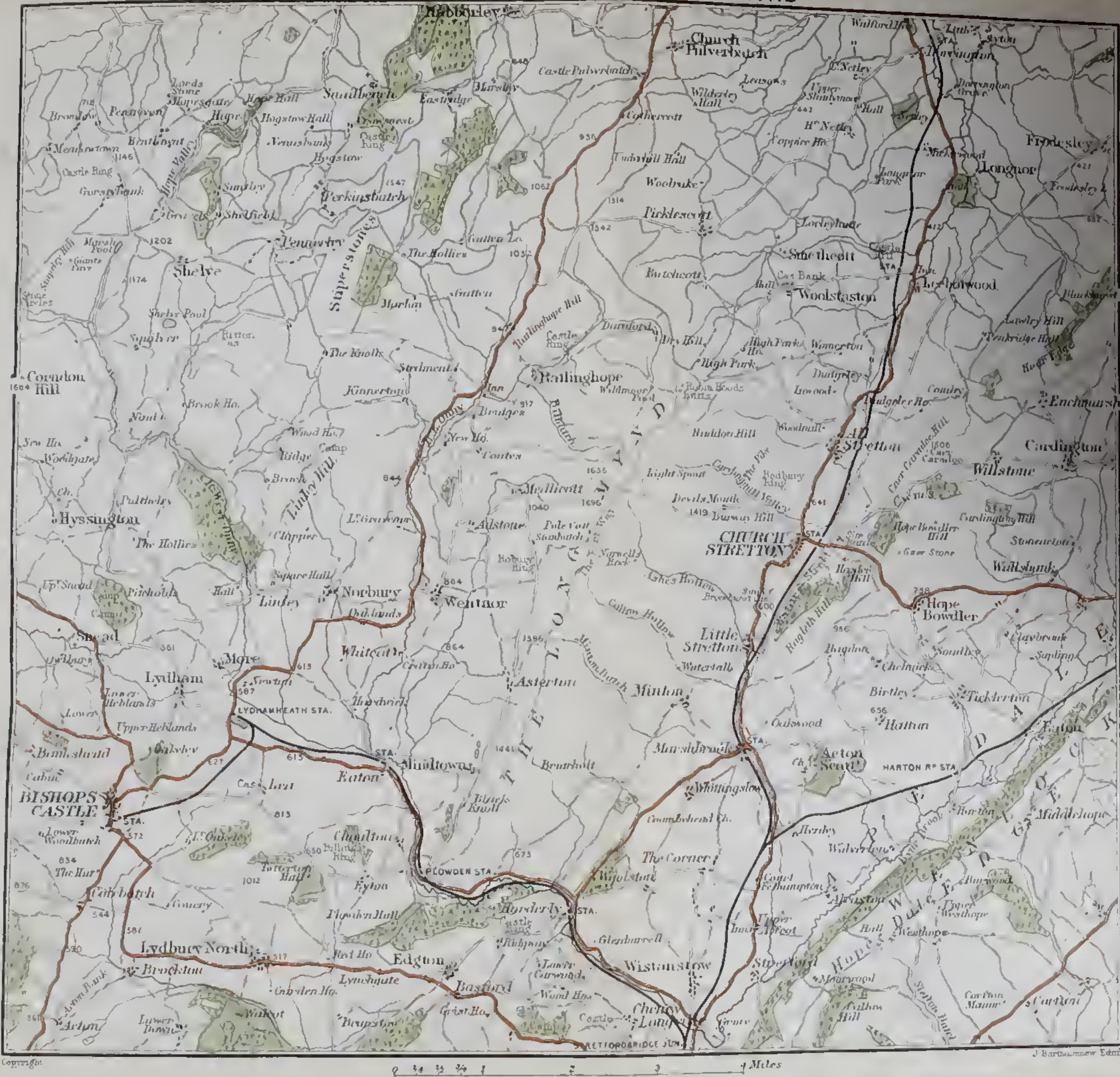
The wooded banks on each side the rly. soon give place to a more open valley bounded by lofty hills.

37 m. **Little Stretton.** The first of three villages deriving their names from the position near a Roman road known as the *Watling Street*, which leads from Kenchester (*Magna*) in Herefordshire to Wroxeter (*Uriconium*) and which has already been met with at Leintwardine (see p. 10). This road must not be confused with the great Roman road of the same name leading from London to Chester (see p. 61), which it met at Uriconium.

38 m. **CHURCH STRETTON** ☆ Stat. This picturesque spot, 600 ft. above the sea-level, annually attracts large numbers of visitors by the excellence of its air and water and the number and charm of the walks which are to be found in its neighbourhood. It lies directly under and on the slopes of the steep sides of the **LONGMYND**,* which, with its deep gullies and cross valleys, forms the most important range of mountains in Shropshire, rising to the height of from 1,400 to 1,600 ft. Immediately opposite are the hills of Ragleth, Hope Bowdler, Caer Caradoc, and the Lawley, all nearly as high, but more broken in their outline. These chains of eminences afford to the lover of scenery ample reasons for making Church Stretton his headquarters—though it is principally to the geologist that the neighbourhood is so deeply interesting. Speaking of the Longmynd, Sir Roderick Murchison says, "This semi-mountainous mass is found to be composed of the most ancient recognisable sediments of the British Isles. Ranging from N.N.E. to S.S.W., they stand boldly out from beneath the surrounding Silurian deposits, of which they form the mineral axis. The lowest strata of the Longmynd, or those forming the base of their eastern escarpment, range along the western side of the Stretton valley. The whole of the series can be well observed, together with the order of superposition, along the banks of the small brook which descends by the Carding-mill to Church Stretton, and in other parallel transverse gullies. Quartz veins occur here and there—but, on the whole, these strata consist of sandstone rock, both schistose and gritty, and often finely laminated, in which the lines of deposit, and even the rippled surfaces of the beds, are distinctly visible—the mass being scarcely affected by any slaty cleavage." At the present day, however, these Longmyndian rocks are regarded by the majority of geologists as of pre-Cambrian age, while rocks of Cambrian age occur locally between them and the Silurian.

For many years the beds of the Longmynd were believed to be utterly unfossiliferous, but Mr. Salter eventually found in them traces of fuci, some annelid or worm-tubes, and a marking which he believed to be a portion of a trilobite and which he named Palæopyge, but the organic nature of which is now considered doubtful. On the west flanks of the Longmynd, which extends in the direction of Montgomeryshire, is a very symmetrical ascending order of strata from the Cambrian rocks into those

CHURCH STRETTON AND LONG MYND



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of the Lower Silurian; but on the E. or Church Stretton side there is a great fault estimated by Professor Ramsay at not less than 2,000 ft. We find the Caradoc range, as it is called, consists of old volcanic outbursts and igneous injections, the former of pre-Cambrian age. The only portion of the fossiliferous Silurian strata which originally reposed on the Longmynd rocks and which has escaped the universal denudation is a small patch of Silurian, or Wenlock limestone, that occurs at Botville, a little higher up the valley, and is curiously wedged between the Longmynd rocks and the igneous rocks of the Caradoc hill.

Church Stretton itself is a straggling little place, with the *ch.*, an old square-towered building, in the centre. It is cruciform, with an image of St. Lawrence in the E. angle of the tower. The doorway is of Norm. date. In the interior is much carved oak, placed there by a late rector.

Here was born Dr. Roger Mainwaring, chaplain to Charles I. and Bp. of St. David's.

Excursions:—

(*a*) To **Carding-mill** or **Paper-mill Valley** (about 5m.) Take the road to All Stretton and turn up the valley through a gate on the l. near the workhouse and just beyond a stream; after a short walk through a lane another gate is reached and the valley proper entered. On the summit of the second hill on the rt. is a circular camp, **Bodbury Ring**, said to have been occupied by the Roman General Ostorius Scapula prior to his battle with Caractacus (or Caratâcos, as he should be more properly called). This can be visited by climbing one of the gullies at its side. Beyond this hill a sharp ridge, the *Pike*, descends to the valley on the rt. at a spot where there is a small reservoir. Near here are the carding-mills, now used for the manufacture of aërated waters. Some little distance further the road forks. The path on the l. leads to the **Lightspout**, a small waterfall, near which is a rustic seat. That on the rt. leads to Robin Hood's Butts, the Portway, and Ratlinghope (see Excursion *c*). Reaching the summit of the Longmynd by either of these paths, the pedestrian can return to Church Stretton by the Devil's Mouth path (see Excursion *b*).

(*b*) The **Longmynd** (about 9 m.) Although this range does not offer any very arduous task to the ordinary mountaineer, it has a reputation for being somewhat dangerous at times in consequence of fogs and the precipitous character of the passes. "The last fair in the year held at Church Stretton is popularly distinguished by the rather significant name of 'Dead Man's Fair,' on account, it is said, of the number of men who, after attending it, have perished in the attempt to return home over the hills in the dark nights of early winter." In 1865 the Rev. D. Carr, of Ratlinghope, nearly lost his life in a snowstorm, having been 24 hours on the hill. A vivid description of his sufferings will be found in a little work entitled "Lost in the Snow," written by the reverend gentleman, who has survived his unpleasant experience for 30 years. A good idea of the extent and character of this range may be obtained by taking the path past the Rectory along the side of *Burway Hill*. To the rt. below is the Carding-mill Valley, on the opposite side of which Bodbury Ring will be recognised. Following the upper path, a gap between two rocks, formerly much bolder and known as the *Devil's Mouth*, is reached. Beyond this point the path forks, that on the l. leading to a platform used for artillery practice. (N.B. The signal post here must not be mistaken for the genuine *Pole*.) The path on the rt. leads to the *Pole* at the summit of the range (1,696 ft.) From this point an extensive view of the mountains is obtained: N. The Wrekin;

E. Caradoc, Lawley, Wenlock Edge, and the Clees; S.E. The Malvern Hills, and at their S. extremity Cleeve Cloud, beyond Cheltenham; W. the Stiperstones, easily recognisable by the numerous outcrops of rock along the summit, and at their S. extremity the isolated mass of Corndon Hill. On a clear day Snowdon, Cader Idris, the Brecon Beacons, and other Welsh mountains can be seen. A short distance from the pole is a small house, Pole Cottage, inhabited all the year round. The **Portway** leads in front of this. It is an ancient British trackway, leading from Castle Hill above Leebotwood to Billing's Ring, 2 m. S.E. of Bishop's Castle. "A perambulation of this part of the forest, made in 1278, relating especially to Lydbury North, speaks of the king's highway on 'Longemunde,' which, no doubt, means the Portway."—*Wright.*

The Portway may be followed to the S. end of the range, where it dips down to Plowden (stat. on Bishop's Castle line, Rte. 5). The track is difficult to find in places amongst the heather and bilberries unless the Ordnance map is used. The trouble, however, is well worth taking, as the views obtained are magnificent. The pedestrian will be assisted by remembering that he should keep along the rt. edge of the range, without dipping into the valley until he has crossed a grass-covered hill, *Black Knoll.*

(*c*) To **Ratlinghope** and **Woolstaston** (11 or 15 m.) The path mentioned in the last excursion should be taken to a fingerpost which will direct the pedestrian to **Ratlinghope**, a priory or cell of Wigmore as early as 1209, between 5 and 6 m. distant.

On the hill beyond this village is the **Castle Ring**, which is oval, contains in its area $1\frac{1}{2}$ acre, and is encircled by one ditch only, the general height of the vallum being about 10 ft. On W. and S. the ascent is precipitous, and the fosse slight; but on the E., where the ground falls gently, the works are more elevated. Another camp, due S. of Castle Ring, lies between it and Bilbilch Gutter.

From Ratlinghope, take the road past the brickworks and follow the second path on the rt. past Marsh Farm. The path passes a tumulus and a small pool, *Wildmoor Pool*, on the rt., and leads to a pair of tumuli, known as Robin Hood's Butts. The path on the rt. beyond these should be followed to **Woolstaston**, above which at **Castle Bank** is an earthwork with keep-mound. From this the pedestrian can proceed to Leebotwood. A quarter of a mile W.N.W. of the ch. is the *Castle Hill*, a large mound, partly natural but more largely artificial. It is 40 ft. above the plain, and 265 ft. in length. From Leebotwood the traveller can return to Church Stretton by road through All Stretton (4 m.), or train.

(*d*) To **Caradoc** and **Lawley.** Follow the road passing the station until it is crossed by the Watling Street. Turn up this to the l. and take the first turn to the rt. up a deeply cut trackway. On the rt. of this is the field in which the *battle* between Caractacus and Ostorius Scapula is said to have taken place, though it is right to add that much doubt exists as to the actual positions occupied by the armies, other places, such as Caer Caradoc near Knighton, claiming the honour. The trackway should be followed until the E. face of Caradoc is reached, bounding a valley called the *Cwms*, The ascent should be made from a stile on the l. side of the path. On the summit (1,506 ft.) is a very perfect camp, with ditches 5 to 6 ft. deep, said to have been the impregnable position occupied by Caractacus prior to the battle.[1] A short dis-

[1] "The Romans wrote Caratacus, and the editors have made it into *Caractacus*, which is gibberish. *Carat-* represents the passive part. of the verb, which is in Welsh *car-u*, to love, and the affix *-āc* is frequently used in proper names. The name is very common in Mod. Welsh as *Caradog*, and in Irish as *Carthach*, genitive *Carthaig*, perpetuated in an Anglicised form by the Irish families that call themselves *MacCarthy*."—*Rhys.*

tance below the vallum, on the W. face of the hill, is a small cave which is traditionally connected with the British chieftain. From the summit is a fine **view**: To the N. (1) the sharp ridge of Lawley Hill; (2) beyond this and rather to the rt., Lodge Hill, above Frodesley; (3) Shadwell Coppice, above Acton Burnell; (4) the Wrekin. To the E., and separated from the above-mentioned Hills (save the Wrekin) by Apedale, is Wenlock Edge, and beyond it the Clee Hills. To the W. is the Longmynd, the pole on the highest point of which can be easily seen. To the S., and running nearly at right angles with Caradoc, is Cardington Hill; an outcrop of rock on the W. extremity of this is known as the *Gaer Stone*. Beyond this and close to Caradoc are the Hazler and Ragleth Hills. The N. face of Caradoc should now be descended and the road at the foot crossed, when the Lawley can be ascended; at the pole which marks its summit a similar view to that from Caradoc will be obtained, the plain around Shrewsbury and the small elevations of N. Shropshire, with the Berwyns in the distance, forming a charming prospect. Follow the ridge of Lawley to its N. termination, and turn sharp down a road on the l. which crosses the Watling Street and leads to *Longnor* (Hall—Lt.-Col. J. K. Spilling). Turn to the rt. at the main road to Dorrington; the stat. is about 1½ m. distant.

(Length of this excursion about 9 m. It involves a considerable amount of steep, though not difficult climbing.)

(*e*) To **Little Stretton, Marshbrook**, and **Horderley**. Take the road to the S. end of Church Stretton past the gasworks. A sharp turn between the hills is known locally as the *End of the World*. On the rt. is the steep eminence of *Yearlet* (1,500 ft.), and immediately in front a low wooded bank, partly artificial, on which formerly existed the royal castle of *Brockhurst*, of which no traces now exist.

[*H. B. Shrop.*]

1½ m. **Little Stretton.** There is here a pretty, much modernised, half-timber house.

2½ m. **Marshbrook.** The tourist should now take the road to the rt. which crosses the line, and ascend the hill to a modern ch. at **Coombehead** (4 m.) The road passes through a beautiful gorge to **Horderley** (5 m.), where is a stat. on the Bishop's Castle line. Here the train may be taken, or the road to the l. pursued for 2 m. to its junction with the main Shrewsbury and Ludlow road, from which point it is 6 m. to Church Stretton, or 3½ to Marshbrook Stat.

From Church Stretton the rly. proceeds to

42 m. **Leebotwood** (or Le Botwood) Stat., near which occasional glimpses of a deserted coalpit show that the tourist is traversing the Shrewsbury coalfield. (*Introduction*, p. 12.)

To rt. *Netley Hall* (Rev. St. L. F. Hope-Edwardes).

45 m. **Dorrington Stat.** [Beyond this and on l. ½ m. from line

Stapleton. There is here a singular **Church**, consisting of two edifices erected at different dates, one on top of the other. The lower (said to be 11th cent.) has very massive walls, 4 ft. thick, pierced with narrow square-headed slits, widely splayed internally. It was entered by a round-headed doorway on the S. In the 13th cent. the roof of this ch. fell in, and a further edifice, originally separated from the lower by a wooden floor, was built upon it. This was lit by lancet windows. On the S. of the ch. is a remarkable *tumulus*, probably from its situation the remains of a Saxon fortification.]

46 m. **Condover Stat.** The village is ¾ m. l. (See Exc. *c*, Rte. 8, p. 65.) On the l. the **Lyth Hill**, a favouite spot for summer residence, and Lythwood Hall (W. E. M. Hulton Harrop, Esq.)

47 m. **Bayston Hill.** Overlooking the valley of the Severn, on the opposite side of the village green to the ch., are earthworks called the *Burys*.

49 m. **Shrewsbury.** (See p. 53.)

ROUTE 2.

FROM LUDLOW TO BEWDLEY, BY WOOFERTON JUNCT., TENBURY, AND CLEOBURY MORTIMER (RAIL).

Rail.	Places.
	Wooferton Junct.
5½ m.	Tenbury
7½ m.	Newnham
10 m.	Neen Sollers
13½ m.	Cleobury Mortimer
19½ m.	Bewdley

From Ludlow to WOOFERTON JUNCT. see Rte. 1. Thence a branch quits the main line, running parallel with the Teme River to

3 m. *Easton Court Stat.* (in Herefordshire).

On rt. is the pretty *ch.* of **Little Hereford**; it is for the most part of the date of Henry II., and possesses an early Norm. font, a piscina, and sedilia. There are monuments to the Delameres, who were great benefactors to the ch. One of these is an incised slab under a recessed arch in the chancel. Bishop William of Hereford ordered masses for the soul of Wm. Delamere, "pro donatione et libertate ecclesiæ de Parva Hereford." There is a most singular piscina by the side of the chancel arch near its point, which was evidently connected with the rood-loft, of which the staircase still exists. In the chancel is a monument to the late Jos. Bailey, M.P. for the county. On l. is **Easton Court**, a seat of Sir J. Russell Bailey, Bart., which formerly belonged to the Delameres and then to the Danseys, from whom it was purchased in 1840. In the library are some armchairs made out of the house at Leicester where King Richard slept the night before Bosworth. In this parish, also, are **Ledwych Farm**, once belonging to the family of Benbow, of which Admiral Benbow was a member; and **Bleatherwood Court**, an old house built by Christopher Dansey, on his marriage with Sybil Delamere, temp. Henry VIII. **Upton Court** was an old seat of the Karvers. The course of the Teme is extremely pretty here, as at *Red Rock*, a little farther on. Crossing the Ledwyche, the rly. re-enters Salop at

4 m. **Burford House** (Lady Northwick), erected in the reign of George II. It has a short avenue of elm-trees in front. This estate came from the Mortimers to the family of Cornewall, who enjoyed it under the designation of Barons of Burford. The line ended in a daughter, who married a Legh of High Leigh, by whom this property was sold to William Bowles, M.P. for Bewdley. The Lords of Burford held the land by barony, but were not summoned to Parliament, an exemption first claimed as a privilege, but afterwards lamented as a privation. In the reign of Henry III. Burford was a place of so much importance as to possess a weekly market and an annual fair of 3 days.

Burford Church * has been so thoroughly restored by the Hon. Miss Rushout as to be practically a new edifice. Apart from the well-carved oak in the chancel and the reredos in memory of the Hon. and Rev. G. Rushout, ob. 1887, there are a number of most interesting memorials of the Cornewall family, and special notice should be taken of the following:

(1) On the N. wall of the chancel is a most interesting triptych by Melchior Salaboss, executed in 1588. In the pediment is a representation of the Last Judgment, with a small Crucifixion beneath. On the doors externally are the Apostles and internally coats of arms. When the doors are opened, full-sized paintings of Richard Cornewall, Janet his wife, and Edmund their son will be seen. Below are two long doors with an inscription externally, and internally figures of Sir R. Cornewall and his wife; when opened they expose a painting of Edmund Cornewall, the "Strong Baron," in his shroud. He was the son of Richard Cornewall, and 7 ft. 3 in. in height. (2) Underneath a canopy in the chancel is a fine recumbent alabaster effigy of the Prin-

cess Elizabeth, daughter of John of Gaunt, sister of Henry IV., wife of John Holland, Duke of Exeter, and afterwards of Sir J. Cornewall, Lord Fanhope, a professional tilter in the reign of Henry IV. She died 1426, and was originally buried with her husband in Whitefriars Ch., London. (3) In the centre of the chancel a good coloured wooden effigy of Edmund Cornewall, ob. 1580, æt. 20. (4) An excellent brass (by the communion table) to Elizabeth, wife of Esmond Cornewaylle, c. 1370. (5) In a small recess in the chancel, the enshrined heart of Edmond Cornewall, who died abroad temp. Henry VI. In the ch.-yd. is a wheel-cross on octagonal base, restored by the parishioners in 1867 in memory of Miss Rushout. The Rectory is a charmingly picturesque (though modern) house near the ch. In the neighbourhood of Burford are *Stoke House* (W. Foster, Esq.) and *Court-of-Hill* (Commander A. H. O. P. Hill-Lowe).

5½ m. **TENBURY**☆ *Stat.* (in Worcestershire) derives its name from the river which divides Salop from Worcestershire, and is here crossed by a neat bridge of 6 arches. The town, which possesses one or two old houses, such as the Royal Oak, in Broad Street, consists of 2 streets, the chief being Teme Street, crossing each other at rt. angles, and has a Spa, Corn Exchange, Workhouse, a Butter cross, and a *ch.* within its limits. The tower and chancel are the only remains of the ancient **Church** erected in the 11th cent. The nave was destroyed in November 1770 by the overflowing of the Teme, which surrounds the ch.-yd. This injury was occasioned by digging a grave near the foot of a pillar supporting the roof between the nave and S. aisle, when the water, percolating through, undermined the column, and threw down that portion of the edifice. The ch., which consists of nave, aisles, chancel, and west tower, has been carefully restored, and presents several objects of interest. The E. window of 5 lights and 2 single lights in the chancel are memorial windows of stained glass. The aisles are separated from the nave by 3 arches with clustered columns. A curious monument is preserved here—the effigy of a knight, only 30 in. long, clad in chain mail, with a surcoat and sword, and his legs crossed. It is on a raised tomb, 3 ft. in length, within a canopy 8 ft. high, and is ascribed to Sir John Sturmy, who joined the Crusaders under Richard I. The face has unfortunately been cut off, but otherwise this remarkable monument is in excellent preservation. At the E. end of the S. aisle are 2 life-size recumbent figures of Thomas Acton, Esq., and his wife, on a richly carved base, erected in 1584. He is represented with his feet resting on a boar. Near this is a mark on the wall, about 3 ft. from the ground, showing the point to which the water rose in the severe floods of May 1886. In the S. wall of the same aisle is the full-length figure of a Crusader, so built into the wall that only one side can be seen in the interior. The advowson of Tenbury belonged to the monastery of Sheen in Surrey, and after its suppression was possessed by Shakespeare's Sir Thomas Lucy, by whose descendants it was sold, in 1716, to Mr. Read, whose youngest daughter was the mother of Sir Thomas Lawrence.

A mineral spring was discovered here in 1839, by workmen sinking a well. The water sprang up suddenly from a bed of limestone, lying under a massive stratum of old red sandstone, 32 ft. below the surface. It contains chlorides of calcium and of sodium, magnesia, and bromine, with a trace of iodine, and has proved highly beneficial in scorbutic and cutaneous disorders. At the end of Teme Street farthest from the bridge and stat., a pump-room, a reading-room, and baths have been established for the convenience of invalids, and walks laid

out on the banks of the small river Kyre.

The tourist should visit the Rev. Sir Frederick Ouseley's magnificent *ch.* of *St. Michael*, about 2 m. from Tenbury on the Leominster road. It is a splendid example of Dec. architecture, and is gorgeously fitted up. The organ is one of the best in England, and was constructed under Sir Frederick's immediate superintendence. Attached to the ch. is a college, wherein boys are educated with a special view to the cultivation of church music. If possible, visit it on a saint's day, when full choral service is performed.

From Tenbury the line keeps near the turnpike road and the river to

7½ m. **Newnham Stat.** ✡ On l. is the village of Knighton on Teme. The Teme for several miles is preserved by an Association, of which the terms of membership are reasonable. Trout and grayling are the principal catches.

The rly now turns to the N. to

10 m. **Neen Sollers Stat.**, on the outskirts of Bewdley Forest. The *ch.* has a monument to Humphry Coningsby, the traveller, lord of the manor in the 16th cent. To the rt. 1 m. is *Shakenhurst* (G. Wicksted, Esq.), an unpretending brick mansion, with a porch.

2 m. to the E. is **Mamble** *Ch.*, which has 2 mortuary chapels belonging to the Blount and Shakenhurst families, filled with their memorials. Amongst them is a stone effigy of Ralph de Mamble in full suit of chain armour, and a *brass* of John Blount and his wife, 1510. This neighbourhood is noted for the longevity of its inhabitants. Passing l. *Mawley Hall* (H. C. V. Hunter, Esq.), situated at the head of a picturesque glen, the traveller arrives at

13½ m. **Cleobury Mortimer.** ✡

The town derives its second name from Ralph de Mortimer, who came over with the Conquest, and having subdued Edric, Earl of Shrewsbury, received all his Shropshire estates as a reward.

It is a straggling old-fashioned little place, on the banks of the Rea Brook. The *ch.* (formerly attached to a religious house) is E. Eng. date, and has nave, aisles, chancel, S. porch, and square tower with a high octagonal wooden spire, which by warping has twisted like that at Chesterfield. A son of Sir Roger de Mortimer and Lady Isabel de Ferrars, which hardly survived its birth, was buried here. Adjoining it is a grammar school founded by Sir E. L. Child. In High Street is a stone pillar on which the body of Prince Arthur is said to have rested between Ludlow and Shrewsbury. At Cleobury Mortimer was born Robert Longland, the author of the "Vision of Piers Plowman," in the 14th cent. Saxton, in his survey, mentions a large park here, originally a royal chase or park, which in early times came to the Mortimers, and again merged into the Crown. Here, too, John Moultrie, the revered vicar of Rugby, the boy-friend of Macaulay, Mackworth Praed, and Sidney Walker, the author of "My Brother's Grave," "Sir Launfal," and "A Dream of Life," passed the years of his boyhood.

The rly. now enters the *Bewdley Forest*, once so vast that Worcestershire took its name from it, but now a district of 7,000 acres, planted with oak and underwood, which, however, scarcely furnishes the usual charms of forest scenery. A periodical pillage has taken place from an early period, calling forth the following complaint in the "Polyolbion."

"When soon the goodlie Wyre, that wonted was so hie
Her statelie top to reare, ashamed to behold
Her straighte and goodlie woods unto the furnace sold;
And looking on herself, by her decay doth see
The miserie wherein her sisters' forests bee."

The **Forest of Wyre** coalfield stretches from the N. end of the Abberley Hills, and under the Bewdley Forest, until it becomes contracted to a narrow band alongside the Severn, near Bridgnorth, where it dies out. The coal seams

are mainly those of the upper series, and, as usual in those cases, are of inferior quality. A single patch of the lower series has alone been discovered near Kinlet, and is now being worked. There were several pits in the upper measures in the parishes of Mamble and Pensax. "In some of the latter the shafts are from 30 to 40 yards deep, passing through white sandstone, and two coals are worked, of which the upper or yard coal is the best—a lower coal of inferior quality is not extracted. The overlying coal sandstone is exhibited in fine quarries at Pensax, and is a good building material, but it thins out towards the Abberley Hills." Notwithstanding that the timber of the Wyre district is far below the size of English forests, it is a pleasant, wild, out-of-the-way country to ramble in, and will well repay the pedestrian.

The rly. crosses the Severn at *Dowles Brook*, on an iron bridge of one arch, having a span of 200 ft., and joins the Severn Valley Rly. at Northwood. Near the river-bank to the rt. is the little brick *ch.* of Dowles, of plain structure.

19 m. **Bewdley** ✠ is in Worcestershire, but so close to the borders of Shropshire that it must be described here. It is a borough town, consisting of two principal streets at right angles, containing very well built houses. In the High Street a "black-and-white" timbered house of three gables bears the date of 1610. It takes its name (Beau Lieu or Bellus Locus) from its pleasant situation upon the declivity of a hill on the rt. bank of the Severn, which is crossed by one of Telford's bridges, erected 1797, and charmingly sheltered by the adjoining forest of Wyre. Camden describes it in a complimentary verse—

"Delicium rerum Bellus Locus undique floret,
Fronde coronatus Viriaræ tempora Silvæ."

"Fair seated Bewdley, a delightful town
Which Wyre's tall oaks with shady branches crown."

It was included in the Marches of Wales, and was added to the county of Worcester by Henry VIII., though it had previously obtained a charter of incorporation from Edward IV. Its situation on the Severn, and its means of communication with Bristol by that river, enabled the merchants of Bewdley to establish a very extensive trade in combs and sailors' caps, and it was once the emporium for the exportation of Welsh flannels, cotton goods, timber, bark, corn, leather, and wool; whilst it imported groceries for the supply of Lancashire and the Principality. Its trade in these commodities has been abolished by modern arrangements; but the town retains many proofs of its former prosperity in the numerous massive houses built by its wealthy merchants. In the Civil War Bewdley was held for the King, but was surprised by Fox the Tinker, who took Sir T. Lyttleton and other persons of quality prisoners. Charles I. regained possession of it before the fight at Marston Moor, and also after his defeat at Naseby.

The Town Hall, a modern neat building in the High Street, has a commodious marketplace underneath, with the arms of Lyttleton carved in front. John Tomes, a theological disputant of notoriety in the Civil Wars, and Willis, Bp. of Winchester, son of a carpenter, were natives of Bewdley.

Crossing the Severn Bridge and passing the extremely primitive *ch.* at the top of Load Street, an outlet, called Park Lane, leads to *Ticknell House* (J. Moxon, Esq.), situated on a very picturesque eminence, and built by Henry VII. as a place of retirement for Arthur, Prince of Wales, in the forest of Wyre, and in this house the prince was married by proxy to Catherine of Aragon.

The Court of Marches was once held alternately at Ludlow and Ticknell, and it was on his road between these places that the prince died, A.D. 1502. Ticknell continued in good condition until the Civil

War, when it was visited by Charles I., and was afterwards demolished by the Parliament. Their Commissioners described the Royal House as having "a great court, a garden, and several outhouses—the house built within the park, and contains 2 acres in its site." At the Restoration it was granted to Lord Herbert, and afterwards to Sir Francis Winnington, Solicitor-General. At the farther end of High Street from the ch. is approached Kates Hill (J. Bury, Esq.); and beyond it, amidst fine timber, Winterdyne House.

Winterdyne House (G. Shaw, Esq.), commanding a delightful view of the Severn, was built 1770, by Sir E. Winnington, Bart. "The healthiness of the situation, the beauty of the prospect, and the commodious arrangements of the mansion unite in making it a very delightful residence."—*Nash.*

ROUTE 3.

FROM LUDLOW TO WOLVERHAMPTON, BY CLEE HILLS AND BRIDGNORTH.

Road.	Places.
	Ludlow
8½ m.	Burwarton
9½ m.	Cleobury North
17½ m.	Bridgnorth
24½ m.	Shipley Common
31½ m.	Wolverhampton

This road leads through a portion of Shropshire scarcely touched by rlys., and but little frequented.

The direct road to Bridgnorth is by Middleton, distance 17½ m.; but a far more interesting rte. is obtained by going across the Clee Hills, and regaining the turnpike at Burwarton or Cleobury North.

There are 2 roads to the Clee Hills from Ludlow:

1. The upper one (5 m.) is the shorter, passing, 2 m. l., *Henley Hall* (J. B. Wood, Esq.), and leaving the village of Middleton to the l., 3½ m. [To the l., 1 m., is the village of **Bitterley**, mentioned in Domesday Book as having once belonged to Roger de Lacy. The **Church** (restd.) is at some little distance from the village, close beside Bitterley Court (Rev. J. Walcot). It contains a fine Norm. font, a remarkably good oak chest, and a floriated cross in the Easter sepulchre in the chancel. The feature of greatest interest, however, is the ch.-yd. cross, which is by far the finest in the county, and dates back to about 1500. In the head the Crucifixion can be clearly seen. The shaft is perforated by a hole, the object of which is not clear.]

The road now ascends the shoulder of Hoar Edge, and soon joins

2. The lower road, which is rather longer, and passes **Caynham Court**, the seat of Sir William M. Curtis, Bart. On the hill above the house is a Roman camp, in good preservation; 2 m. to the E. is Whitton Chapel and *Whitton Park*, an old seat of the Charltons. The road now ascends Knowbury Hill, and joins the former one. By pursuing this main road the traveller will reach Cleobury Mortimer in 9 m. (Rte. 2), passing l. the village of **Hopton Wafers** and *Hopton Court* (Rear-Admiral Woodward, C.B.) The *ch.* of Hopton was attached to Brecon Priory. Hopton Court was in the 17th cent. the seat of the Hydes, but it passed by purchase to Mr. Oldham, who built a new house from designs by *Nash.* The grounds were laid out by *Repton.*

The **Clee Hills**, famous, according to Camden, "for producing the best barley, and not without some veins of iron," form a picturesque and singular range, running rather disjointedly for some 10 m. in a north-easterly direction. They may be described as a long ridge, consisting of Knowbury, Hoar Edge, and Farlow Hill, in front of which, and connected by a small

elevated neck, rises the steep escarpment of Titterstone Clee (1,749 ft.), a most important feature in South Shropshire scenery. Leland says: "The highest part of Cle Hills is cawlyd Tyderstone. In it is a fayre playne grene and a fountayne in it. Ther is another Hill, 3 miles distant, cawlyd the Brown Cle." At Farlow the hills die out for about 2 m., but reappear further N. in the two eminences of the Brown Clee.

From any one of them, but more especially the Titterstone Clee, the view is remarkably fine, extending over the Malverns, the Sugar-loaf and the Scyrrid in Monmouthshire, and the Black Mountains in Breconshire, while eastward the whole extent of country is visible to Bridgnorth, and even into Staffordshire. Drayton thus sings of the Teme and the Clees:

> Where at her going out, those mountains of commande
> (The Clees, like loving twins and Stitterstone that stande)
> Trans-Severnèd, behold faire England towards the rise,
> And on their setting side, how ancient Cambria lies."
>
> *Polyolb.* viii. 416–20.

The geologist will find very much to interest him, for the Clee Hill coalfield consists of "2 small outlying tracts, remnants of a formation that once spread continuously from South Wales and Gloucestershire. They are perched on the summits of the Titterstone and Brown Clee; and, if lighted up with the combustible materials with which they are stored, would serve as beacon-fires for many a mile around. These coalfields are rather more than a mile each in diameter, and are capped by a bed of hard *basalt*, to which, owing to its powers of resistance to marine denudation, the hills probably owe their preservation. On these flat-topped hills are planted several small collieries, whose shafts pierce the basalt before entering the coal. The vent from which this igneous rock has been erupted is situated in the Titterstone Clee; and from this orifice the basalt has apparently been poured forth in the form of liquid submarine lava, at some period after the coal-mines were formed." The basalt is in great request for "metal" for roads, for which it is quarried under the name of Dhustone (black stone). Large crushing engines have been erected for the purpose of breaking it up on the spot. "The thickness of the coal formation is but small, containing only 2 or 3 thin columns, and the strata rest generally on Old Red sandstone, but representatives both of the carboniferous limestone and Millstone grit are interposed at the eastern side of the Titterstone Clee."—*Hull.* At Farlow and Oreton these beds between the Old Red and the Millstone grit are especially interesting, and have yielded the *Pterichthys macrocephalus*, while the overlying limestones are rich in palatal teeth of Orodus, Pæcilodus, Helodus, &c.—The following flowers have been noted on the Clee Hills: The minute harebell (*Wahlenbergia hederacea*), *Allosorus crispus* (parsley fern), *Achillea Ptarmica*, *Viola lutea*, *Scutellaria minor*, *Sedum Telephium*, *Inula Helenium*, *Saxifraga hypnoides*, *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Botrychium lunare*.

The archæologist may observe the remains of an ancient *encampment* on the summit of Titterstone Clee, and facing the W. is a portion of basaltic rock, called "The Giant's Chair." The vallum surrounding the camp is larger than that of Abdon Burf, but inferior to it in height. It measures from N. to S. 560 yds., and from E. to W. ½ m. The original entrance lies on the S.S.E. The coal from the collieries is conveyed to Ludlow by a rly., used only for minerals.

The main road from Middleton runs up the valley of the Ledwyche Brook, passing l., on high ground, *Downton Hall*, the seat of Sir Charles Boughton, Bart.

4 m. rt., *The Moor*; and to the l.,

1 m., is the village of Hopton in the Hole, or **Hopton Cangeford.**

6¼ m. on rt., 1½ m., is **Wheathill,** the *ch.* of which has a fine semicircular S. doorway with cable moulding; the tympanum is ornamented with diamond facets.

Burwarton is situated on the slopes of the Brown Clee Hill. The Hall is the residence of Viscount Boyne. The old *ch.*, now in ruins, is Norm., and had a plain semicircular chancel arch. The new *ch.* is situated near it, but on somewhat higher ground. The **Brown Clee Hill,** which overlooks Burwarton, has two summits, each marked by a camp. *Clee Burf*, the most southerly, is surrounded by a vallum on the N. side. *Abdon Burf* (Qy. Buarth, enclosure) is also encircled by a vallum of dewstone, 65 ft. wide at its base. The enclosed area is oval, 1,317 ft. from N. to S., and 660 ft. from E. to W. In this enclosure are remains of circles, and a large unhewn stone called the Giant's Shaft. This overthrown *menhir* is over 8 ft. in length, and tapers from 2 ft. 4 in. sq. to 1 ft. 8 in. *Nordy Bank* is a Roman stat., 1 m. W. of Clee Burf. It is a parallelogram with rounded angles, surrounded by a "fosse" 12 ft. wide, and a very perfect specimen of a Roman fortified position. Mr. Hartshorne argues, from Abdon Burf overlooking Nordy Bank, that the former enclosure was *religious*, not *defensive*, as otherwise the Romans would not have encamped at a disadvantage. A road led from it to Rushbury, now called the Devil's Causeway.

Aston Botterell *Ch.* (1 m. rt.) contains a canopied altar-tomb to the Botterells.

On rt., 4 m., is **Stoddesdon Ch.,*** restored in 1868. It contains some good Norm. work in the lower stage of the tower and semicircular arches between the N. aisle and the nave: a S. aisle, called the Wrickton Chantry, was added in the 14th cent. There are good Dec. sedilia, a plain Easter sepulchre floored with some old tiles, a late 16th cent. carved wood pulpit, and a very fine Norm. font with interlaced borde surmounting other bands of ornament. The most remarkable feature in this ch. is the piece of *carving* forming the tympanum of the W. door of the original church, now hidden by the later tower. To see it the lower stage of the tower must be entered. The dripstone is divided above, and in the interval between the 2 limbs is a large face, under this is some rude diapering, below which, on a large single stone forming the architrave of the doorway are 3 beasts with human heads, 2 of which are upside down. This piece of carving is apparently of pre-Conquest date and one of the most ancient in the county.

Stoddesdon Manor originally belonged to the Norm. family of De Gamages, and afterwards was held by the Cornewalls and Sir Walter Manny. He raised the siege of Hennebonne, which had been defended to the last gasp by the Countess of Montfort.

9½ m. **Cleobury North** and *Court* (W. L. Dodgson, Esq.)

A *ch.* existed at Cleobury in the reign of Henry I., and was attached to Brecon Priory. The font is octagonal, with tooth-moulding round the base.

Clœia in Saxon = "Clayey," whence Clee Hill, Clœia Beorg, or Clayey Town = Cleobury, now called Cleobury North, in contradistinction to Cleobury Mortimer.

10½ m. is the village of *Neenton* on the Rea Brook.

The country now becomes very hilly all the way to

BRIDGNORTH, ☆ 17½ m. (Rte 4). (See p. 26.)

Hence the road crosses the Severn, and mounts the opposite hill, descending again at Roughton, overlooking the river Worf and the grounds of *Davenport House* (W. L. B. Levett, Esq.), a fine brick mansion placed in the centre of delightful scenery, caused by the windings of

the Worf in its narrow and deep channel. At the bottom of the valley is **Worfield**, with its pretty *ch.* and spire. In the interior are a good screen, a canopied marble altar-tomb with recumbent figures of Sir George Bromley and his lady, a *brass* to Sir E. Bromley, and other monuments to the Davenport family. The late Mr. Davenport was a well-known sportsman, and celebrated for his greyhounds. Among the former rectors of Worfield were William de Kilkenny, Bp. of Ely and Lord Chancellor 1255, and Henry de Wengham, Bp. of London and Lord Chancellor 1260. The latter was also Dean of St. Martin's, Dean of Tettenhall, Rector of Alveley, Kirkham, and Preston—a tolerable example of pluralism.

[Nearly 4 m. to the N. is **Badger Hall** (Col. A. Capel Cure), which, if it did not take its name from its former possessors, the De Beggesoveres, afterwards the Bagsores, may have been A.-S. for "the bank of the brook" or "of the beeches." In the last cent. Badger belonged to Isaac Hawkins Browne (died 1776), a lawyer and poet of considerable ability, author of "The Pipe of Tobacco" and a Latin poem on the "Immortality of the Soul." The *ch.*, which is of the date of the 12th cent., contains some exquisite monuments to members of the Browne and Cheney families, by *Flaxman*, *Chantrey*, and *Gibson*; also copies of Guido's "Annunciation" and Titian's "Ecce Homo," presented by Col. Capel Cure. The scenery of the Badger dingle is very charming, and famous throughout Shropshire—a narrow rocky glen of nearly 1 m. running down to join the valley of the Worf. It is a favourite spot for excursionists, and admission is granted on certain days.]

4½ m. to the S. of Badger and the same distance E. of Bridgnorth, on a high ridge known as Gravenor Common, is **Chicknell**, and at 5½ m., a little to the N., at Chesterton is an earthwork known as the *Walls*. This is supposed to be a Roman encampment.

At 7 m., Shipley Common, the road enters Staffordshire.

14 m. Wolverhampton.

Handbook for Staffordshire.

ROUTE 4.

FROM BEWDLEY TO SHREWSBURY, BY BRIDGNORTH AND IRONBRIDGE.

Rail.	Road.	Places.
		Bewdley
4 m.		**Arley**
6½ m.		**Highley**
8½ m.		**Hampton Load**
11 m.		**Eardington**
13 m.		**Bridgnorth**

Walk.

abt. 8 m. to Quatford and Morf Forest

		Bridgnorth
	3 m.	**Morville**
	4 m.	**Aston Eyre**
	5 m.	**Upton Cressett**
		Bridgnorth
17 m.		**Linley**
19½ m.		**Coalport**
21 m.		**Ironbridge**
23 m.		**Buildwas Junct.**
28½ m.		**Cound**
30 m.		**Berrington**

This route is conveniently performed by the Severn Valley Rly. of the Great Western Company, which leaves the main line between Worcester and Wolverhampton at HARTLEBURY JUNCT., entering Shropshire a few miles beyond Bewdley (Rte. 2). For the whole way it is carried close to the Severn, and for picturesque and varied river scenery is excelled by few lines in the kingdom.

Quitting the *Bewdley Stat.* at Wribbenhall, it follows the l. bank of the river, and sends off the Tenbury and Wooferton branch at Dowles on l. 2 m. to rt., in the wooded high ground, is *Habberley valley*.

Trimpley, a little to the N., has yielded from its tilestones *Cepha-*

laspis Murchisoni. The line now crosses the river to

4 m. **Arley Stat.** The village is on the l. bank, in a little outlying corner of Staffordshire. The view is charming—a beautiful bend of the river, as it runs through a deep vale—the village close to the water, and above it the beautiful grounds and castle of *Arley*, with the quaint *ch.* adjoining it.

About 5 m., to the W. of Arley, in an elevated and wild part of the Forest of Wyre, is **Kinlet Hall**, once, according to Camden, "a seat of the Blunts, a name very famous in these parts, denoting their golden locks. This is a very ancient and honourable family, and hath spread its branches far." Kinlet is now the seat of Capt. C. B. Childe, and is remarkable for the fine oak timber in the park. The *ch.* (recently restd.) is near the house in the grounds. It consists of nave, chancel, S. porch, and transept, on the outside wall of which are some blocked arches—and contains tombs to the Blount and Childe families, including a canopied tomb with kneeling effigies to Sir G. Blount (ob. 1581), and some good stained glass. The rector of Kinlet was also Abbot of Wigmore. In Wigmore ch. documents is an extract, showing that "he supplied corn and fuel for baking bread to Bp. Swinfield's suite, when he visited Kinlet in 1290, besides forage and litter for 36 horses of his train. Their purveyor paid 1*d.* to the guide, and 4*d.* for crossing and recrossing the Severn at the ferry." It was at Kinlet that this Bp. wrote his famous letter to Pope Nicholas IV., alleging the miracles which had been performed at the tomb of his predecessor Cantilupe, and soliciting his canonisation. **Earnwood**, a manor in the parish of Kinlet, was originally a forest residence (with a park attached) of the Mortimers. On Feb. 13, 1225, King Henry III. commands Hugh de Neville to let Hugh de Mortimer have 10 fallow deer from the royal forest of Feckenham, which the King has given him towards stocking his park at Earnwood. The geologist will find here an instructive outbreak of Plutonic rock, consisting of hornblende greenstone, containing crystals of augite. To the N. of Kinlet is **Billingsley**, where, in 1636, was born Dr. Hyde, a celebrated Oriental scholar, and keeper of the Bodleian Library.

The rly. now ascends a steep incline to

6½ m., **Highley Stat.**, whence there is a charming retrospective view of the river.

8½ m. **Hampton Load Stat.** On the opposite bank is a small wharf for the unloading of coals and lime.

2 m. l. is **Chelmarsh**, the *ch.* (restored recently) of which belonged to Wigmore Abbey in 1179. The male line of the Mortimers of Chelmarsh expired with Hugh de Mortimer at the battle of Shrewsbury in 1403. Higher up, on the l. bank, are the village of Quatt, where is the S.E. Shropshire District School, capable of accommodating 220 pauper children, and *Dudmaston Hall* (Rev. F. H. Woolrych Whitmore).

11 m. **Eardington Stat.**, 2 m. S.W. of which is *Woodlands* (T. W. Browne, Esq.) Emerging from some heavy cuttings, the traveller gains a lovely view of

13 m. **BRIDGNORTH**, ☆ than which few towns are more picturesquely placed. Originally called Brug, it seems to have acquired the suffix of North, in distinction from an ancient bridge lower down Severn at Quatford. (Cf. Sutton (or South Town), near Hereford.) It is divided by the Severn, which here flows through a valley bounded by precipitous rocks covered with wood, into 2 portions—the Upper and Lower towns. The former is perched on the top of a cliff (180 ft. above the river), the descent to which is by a singular passage hewn out of the rock, at least 20 ft. Indeed, most of the cellars of the houses are excavated in the same way. Overlooking the

town are the scanty remains of the **Castle**, around which a terrace walk has been formed, remarkable for the extent and beauty of the landscape.

The castle was built in 1098 by Robert de Belesme, son of Roger de Montgomery. He was the third and last Norman Earl of Shrewsbury, and one of the most turbulent of the Norman barons. This earldom he had obtained from William Rufus, but on his supporting Robert Duke of Normandy he was outlawed, and the castle underwent a siege of 3 weeks' duration, at the end of which it was taken by Henry I. (1102). The chief relic of Robert's Castle is a leaning tower. It would appear, however, that the existing ruins on the Castle Hill have nothing to do with the castle originally built by Æthelfleda, daughter of Alfred the Great, to repress the Danes; the site of which Mr. Eyton has happily divined at Pampudding Hill, in the parish of Oldbury (Old burg or beorg), about 200 yds. westward of the Castle walk. In the Pipe Roll is a charge of 1*d.* a day for the living of the porter of Brug (as Bridgnorth was then called) in the time of Henry II., who visited it when in a state of siege, with Thomas à Becket in his train, as also did John and Henry III. subsequently. King John gave the town a charter, and it has returned a member to Parliament ever since Edward I.'s reign.

It is recorded that Henry II. had a narrow escape of his life while besieging the castle, which was being held against him by Mortimer. An arrow was discharged at him by an archer from the wall, when Hubert de St. Clare, stepping forward, received it in his own breast. It was in this loyal borough, too, that the unfortunate Edward II. found refuge, until discovered and dragged a prisoner to Kenilworth and Berkeley castles. In the Civil War it received several visits from Charles I., and further stood a long siege of a month, when it was finally demolished. According to the Blakeway Papers in the British Museum, Oliver Cromwell narrowly escaped being shot by a brace of musket bullets on July 15, 1645, while riding within range of Bridgnorth.

Bridgnorth possesses 2 churches. **St. Mary's**, rebuilt in 1796, is a Grecian building, with a tower and cupola, and has a fine altar-piece. **St. Leonard's**, a fine spacious ch., was formerly collegiate, and is said to have once possessed 7 chapels. It was situated within the castle wall, and suffered greatly by fire, as did most of the town and its public buildings during the siege in the Civil War. It has been completely restored, and a new figure of St. Leonard bearing chains in his hands has been placed on the W. front of the tower. There is a fine modern font. The E. window is to the memory of Dr. Rowley, many years head master of Bridgnorth School, and was erected by the subscriptions of former pupils and friends. A valuable divinity library bequeathed by Dean Stackhouse is preserved in a room adjoining the organ-chamber. In this ch. is suspended the sword of Col. Billingsley, who was killed in the ch.-yd. by the Parliamentarians, 1646, he being then in command of the Town Regiment. He was buried at Astley Abbotts. The reredos is a memorial of the Rev. G. Bellett, through whose instrumentality the restoration of the ch. was undertaken and carried out. This parish was R. Baxter's first charge (1640), and he resigned it to go to Kidderminster. One of the editions of his "Saint's Rest" is dedicated to the people of Bridgnorth, "in testimony of his unfeigned love to them, who were the first to whom he was sent to publish the Gospel." Ten *almshouses* for poor widows, founded by Francis Palmer, on the S. side of St. Leonard's ch.-yd., commemorate the death within its precincts, at the siege of Bridgnorth, of his uncle, Col. Francis Billingsley, late of Astley Abbotts, a staunch Royalist. The present *town-hall*, built in the place of that destroyed in the Civil War, bears the date of 1652, and is a half-timbered building on the original stone arches. There are some old "black-and-white" houses in the town, with other ancient and interesting buildings, such as the parsonage, the grammar school, and the Swan Inn. Bishop Percy, of Dromore, the antiquary and author of "Reliques of Ancient Poetry," was born in 1728 in another of these houses, which bears the date of 1580. His father was a grocer in the town, and the house, at the bottom of the Cartway and adjoining Underhill Street, but best reached from the bridge, has been restored by its owner, Mr. Austin, of Birmingham. The Hospital of the

Holy Trinity, or St. John's, stood in the Lower town, so as to command all the roads eastward. St. James's Leper House stood outside the town on the Quatford road.

The **Lower town**, which is connected with the Upper by a handsome bridge of 7 arches, does not possess much of interest. From this bridge, indeed, the town has obtained its name; for it superseded another and much more ancient one, 1 m. to the S., which crossed the river most probably at *Quatford*. With the exception of malting, Bridgnorth has not much trade, though, as the centre of a large agricultural district, it is a pleasant halting-place. The Grammar School, an Elizabethan building, founded by the Corporation in 1503, has a good standing amongst educational establishments. On the Worfield road is a cave cut in the red sandstone, known as the **Hermitage**, the hermit having been supposed to be a brother of King Athelstan. Documentary evidence proves that it bore a Saxon name, meaning Ethelward's Rock, in the time of Edward III. It has rudely sculptured piscinæ, arches formed out of the sandstone, and some steps leading to a pulpit; but the *hermitage* is now devoted to such base uses as swine-feeding. Some remains of a House of Grey Friars, established here in the middle of Henry III.'s reign, are to be seen by the Severn side, on a site occupied by Southwell's carpet manufactory—viz. the Refectory, with its panelled ceiling and stone fireplace.

Excursions:—

(*a*) To **Quatford** and **Morf Forest** (8½ m.) can be taken from Bridgnorth, through the district formerly occupied by the Forest of Morf, crossing the bridge, ascending the hill, and leaving the Quatford road on rt.

1 m. is **Quatford**, the ancient Cwthbriege of the Saxon Chronicle. A fortress was built here in 913 by Æthelfleda, and subsequently a collegiate ch. by Adelisa, wife of Earl Roger de Montgomery, as a romantic memorial of her first meeting with her husband on this spot. In 1085 followed the castle and bridge recorded in Domesday Book as the New Berg of Earl Roger. Some indications of the site of a keep occur on the river side of a precipitous rock overhanging the Severn, with a fosse in its rear, about ¼ m. below the village. The whole of the district was then completely covered with wood, Quatford being the capital of the Forest of Morf until the foundation of Bridgnorth by Earl Robert de Belesme, "who," says Ordericus, "removed the people and the houses hither." The *ch.* is of the date of the 14th cent., except a small window on the N. side of the chancel, which is earlier. The chancel arch and font are Norm. Quatford Castle (Rev. H. E. J. Bevan).

Morf Forest was 8 m. in length by 6 wide, and existed for some 2 cents. after the Conquest. The Danes paid it a visit, when they were deprived of their fleet on the Thames by King Alfred, and lay entrenched within its recesses for more than a year.

3 m. a road on l. branches off to **Claverley**, 2½ m., passing l. *Chicknell* (H. C. Cavendish, Esq.) *Claverley Ch.*, Norm. trans. date, was formerly adorned with a fine series of armorial bearings. The *font* is Norm., having arcades, the piers of which are of different mouldings. The visitor should notice the grotesque heads forming the capital of one of the arches. Claverley, with Worfield, Nordley, and Alveley, and with Morfield Forest, were, under Edward the Confessor, a fruitful estate, bounded to the W. by the Severn. Given by the Conqueror to the first Norm. Earl of Shrewsbury, he probably built the ch., and gave its tithes to the collegiate ch. at Quatford. When, however, Henry I. expelled the younger De Belesme, it again became Crown property.

5 m. on l., 1½ m., close to the

Staffordshire border, is *Gatacre Park*, the seat of Capt. E. W. F. Acton, whose family has been settled here since Charles I. The house is modern, but the old building was celebrated for its curious rooms and landing-places. All the offices were some distance off, but were connected by underground passages opening into the country at a considerable distance. It is supposed that Charles II. was concealed here on his flight to Boscobel. The road now crosses the border to

8½ m. Enville Park, the seat of the Earl of Stamford and Warrington (*Handbook for Staffordshire*).

(*b*) To **Morville, Aston Eyre,** and **Upton Cressett.**

3 m. on the Wenlock road is the village of **Morville**, which possessed a ch. in the days of Edward the Confessor. This was succeeded by one built by the monks of Salop in 1118. It then became a cell, and remained subject to Shrewsbury Abbey till the Reformation. The architecture is of the 12th cent. The tower has very thick walls and flat buttresses. The nave and aisles are separated by semicircular arches with mouldings of trans. date. There are Norm. details in the N. chancel door—notwithstanding the date of 1683 over it—in the string-courses, the curious and interesting font, and in the fine chancel arch. Near the ch. is Morville Hall (Miss Warren). *Aldenham Hall*, adjoining the village, is approached by a fine avenue, and is the seat of Lord Acton.

4 m. **Aston Eyre** has a small ch. with trans. Norm. chancel arch. There is a remarkably fine piece of Norm. carving, of unusually deep relief, in the tympanum of the doorway, representing the triumphal entry of our Lord into Jerusalem.

A footpath through the farm opposite the ch. leads to

5 m. **Upton Cressett.** The *ch.* has a nave and chancel of the 12th cent. The S. aisle is of later date. The E. window is remarkably small. The chancel arch is Norm. and has five orders of moulding. The font is shaped like a jar and ornamented with round-headed arches. There is a *brass* to the memory of William Cressett, his wife, 2 sons, and 3 daughters, 1640. *Upton Hall*, now a farmhouse, is Elizabethan, has several oak-wainscoted rooms, a solid oak staircase, and the remains of a private chapel.

From this point the tourist can return to Bridgnorth (4 m.) by Meadowley and the Lye, reaching the Wenlock road beyond Morville.

From Bridgnorth Stat. the rly. tunnels under a portion of the town, and resumes its course by the river-side, passing l. *Stanley Hall*, the seat of Sir R. R. Tyrwhitt-Wilson. Near it is **Astley Abbotts** *Ch.*, dedicated to St. Calixtus. Part of it is of Norm. date, but the chancel was rebuilt in 1633, and the nave and steeple in 1857.

17 m. **Linley Stat.** *Apley Park*, on the opposite side of the river, the seat of W. Orme Forster, Esq., is one of the most beautiful places in the county, or, for the matter of that, in the kingdom. It is a fine mansion built of Grinshill stone, with a lofty square tower, overlooking the Severn, which here makes a graceful bend. On the S.E. front is a groined archway, under which is the principal entrance. But the chief beauty of Apley is the wooded park of 245 acres and the *Terrace*, an elevated drive of more than a mile in length, and of sufficient breadth to allow 6 carriages abreast. The view from it is exceedingly fine, embracing a panorama of 60 miles circumference.

Apley formerly belonged to the Lucys of Charlcote (Shakespeare's prosecutor), from whom it was purchased in the reign of Elizabeth by an ancestor of Mr. Whitmore, the late owner.

The approach to Apley from Bridgnorth is by the Shiffnal Road on the opposite side of the river, which road runs past the chs. of Stockton, and Sutton Maddock to the

l., and, except as being well wooded, is somewhat uninteresting.

Linley Church (1 m. to l.) is of the date of the 12th cent. The S. doorway is semicircular, and the tympanum is occupied by a curious herring-bone pattern. There is some beautiful carving on the upper portion of the font, which may be compared with those of Morville and Stottesden. Linley Hall (Mrs. Wooler) was formerly the seat of the Lacon family.

2½ m. to the W. is *Willey Park*, the seat of Lord Forester, also built of Grinshill stone, from designs by *Wyatt*. The front of the house is nearly 303 ft. long, and has a fine Corinthian portico in the centre. The park is charmingly undulating and wooded, and is ornamented by a series of small lakes. This park is mentioned by Leland as being on the bounds of the Royal Hay or Forest of Shirlot. Hence it is only 3 m. to Much Wenlock. (Rte. 6.)

The valley of the Severn now becomes narrower and more contracted, and signs of manufacturing industry begin to appear at

19½ m. **Coalport** *Stat.*, where the Shropshire iron district may be said to commence. The London and North-Western Rly. has a stat. here on the other side of the river, whence their line runs to **Madeley** and Wellington (Rte. 7). The former place, which contains ironworks, was the residence of the Rev. W. Fletcher, whose life was written by John Wesley. Although the natural beauty of the river valley is very great between Coalport and

21 m. **Ironbridge** ☆ *Stat.*, it is terribly spoilt by the forges and foundries, the banks of slag and refuse that run down to the water's edge. Tiers of dirty cottages rise on the hill-side, which is very steep; advantage being taken of each little dingle to carry a turnpike road or a railroad through it. Very near the stat. the Severn is crossed by an *iron bridge* of one arch, of 120 ft. span, the history of which is exceedingly interesting, as being the first iron bridge on record.

It is due to the energy of Abraham Darby, of the Coalbrookdale Works, in 1779, who, perceiving the want of communication between the brick, pottery, and iron works of Madeley and *Broseley*, determined to bridge the Severn over at this point, where the banks are steep and slippery. "The construction of a bridge of iron was an entirely new idea. An attempt, indeed, had been made at Lyons to construct such a bridge more than 20 years before; but it had entirely failed, and a bridge of timber had been erected instead. It is not known whether the Coalbrook Dale masters had heard of that attempt; but, even if they had, it would have been of no practical use to them. Mr. Pritchard, an architect of Shrewsbury, was first employed to prepare a design of the intended structure, which is still preserved. Although he proposed to introduce cast iron in the arch of the bridge, it was only as a sort of key, occupying but a few feet at the crown of the arch. This sparing use of cast iron indicates the timidity of the architect in dealing with the new material; his plan exhibiting a desire to effect a compromise between the tried and the untried in bridge construction. But the use of iron to so limited an extent, and in such a part of the structure, was of more than questionable utility; and if Mr. Pritchard's plan had been adopted, the problem of the iron bridge would still have remained unsolved. The plan, however, after having been duly considered, was eventually set aside, and another, with the *entire* arch of cast iron, was prepared, under the superintendence of Abraham Darby, by Mr. Thomas Gregory, his foreman of pattern-makers."—*Smiles.* The bridge excited so much curiosity in the country that in 1788 the Society of Arts gave Mr. Darby their gold medal; and Robert Stephenson says of it, "If we consider that the manipulation of cast iron was then in its infancy, a bridge of such dimensions was doubtless a bold as well as an original undertaking, and the efficiency of the details is worthy of the boldness of the conception."

The skill of the builders is shown by the fact that when a thorough examination of the bridge was made in 1862, after nearly 80 years' daily wear and tear, it was found that the abutments had not moved, nor were the ribs out of their proper right line. There had been merely a strain on the land-arches and the road-plates, which the main arch had effectually resisted.

The town of Ironbridge contains no features of interest.

Nearly opposite the iron bridge, but a little higher up the river, is the ravine of **Coalbrook Dale**, in which are situated the celebrated ironworks of that name. The valley is singularly beautiful; and, although to a

certain extent disfigured by forges and furnaces, it is free from the dirty and squalid appearance of Ironbridge. This is due to the care of the masters and the neatness of and architectural attention paid to the residences, offices, and schools.

Coalbrook Dale, although now excelled in size by hundreds of establishments, is historically interesting as the cradle of the iron trade, and the first place where iron was regularly smelted by means of coke and coal. Previous to that time, viz. the 18th cent., ironmasters had always used wood for that purpose, and particularly in Sussex, the then headquarters of the trade. But such havoc was played with the timber, that grave alarm was expressed lest England should become disforested, and severe enactments were passed in 1581 against the use of wood in iron-smelting. This had the effect of paralysing the trade for many years, and of completely putting a stop to it in Sussex: and it was not until the time of Dud Dudley, son of the Earl of Dudley, that attention was turned to the application of coke or "pit-coal" for smelting instead of charcoal (1620). Efforts, more or less successful, were made by him and others to carry on the manufacture in this way; but it was reserved for the Darbys, in 1700, to apply it on a large and systematic scale. Abraham Darby, the first of the ironmasters, was the son of a farmer near Dudley, who established a brass and iron foundry near Bristol, where he succeeded in obtaining from Holland the method of making cast-iron pots, then a profound secret. But his partners being unwilling to embark more capital in the trade, he removed to Coalbrook Dale in 1709, and there first commenced a furnace supplied by wood. Here he obtained a great country reputation for the excellence of his castings of pots, kettles, and other hollow ware. The smelting by charcoal continued till about 1747, when, the timber having become very scarce, pit-coal appears to have been introduced by Mr. Ford, the then manager, who had married Darby's daughter. Abraham Darby died in 1763, and was succeeded by Richard Reynolds, who had married another daughter, and in whose time the works were greatly extended, coal-mining becoming an important part of the concern. In his time, too, the reverberatory furnace for refining the iron was invented by two of the foremen, named *Cranage*, and adopted by him. Their ingenuity, however, was soon improved upon by a later process for puddling, carried out by Henry Cort. A still greater step was taken at Coalbrook Dale by Mr. Reynolds, in the use of iron instead of wooden rails for their tramroad. In 1784, when the Government sought to impose a tax upon pit-coal, the works at Coalbrook Dale were the largest in the kingdom, and the proprietors successfully protested against such an impolitic step. In 1816 Richard Reynolds died, after a long and useful life, in which he had not only secured the fortunes of his family, but done a vast deal of good to all around him, and to the country at large; and since that period the Coalbrook Dale Works, which, with certain changes of partners, have always been in the Darby family, have maintained a very high place in the ranks of the iron trade. Although many others in Wales and Staffordshire exceed them in extent, they yield to none for the excellence of their castings, and worked iron gates of their manufacture were in the Great Exhibition of 1851. For further particulars of the Darby family, the reader is referred to Mr. Smiles's excellent account in his "Industrial Biographies." The works consisted, in 1866, of 5 furnaces at Dawley, Lawley, and Lightmoor, with 35 puddling furnaces at Horsehay. The town is neatly laid out, and bears evident tokens of that supervision which masters should give to those places connected with them, but which is so often wanting.

The **Church**, of Dec. style, was built in 1854 in a very pretty situation, and contains a stained-glass window of the Last Supper, brought from Flanders. On the opposite eminence of Limekiln or *Lincoln Hill*, there are pleasant walks, laid out by Richard Reynolds during his lifetime for the enjoyment of those employed in the works, and known as "The Workmen's Walks." The interior of the hill is hollowed out into vast caverns, caused by the extraction of the limestone of Wenlock (Upper Silurian) date. They are occasionally lighted up, when fine effects are produced. The Great Western Rly. has a *stat.* at Coalbrook Dale, from which the traveller can join the Severn Valley Rly. at Buildwas Junct. (see *post*), or make his way to Wellington, passing *Horsehay*, *Lawley Bank*, and *Ketley* stats. As soon as the line emerges from the wooded dingles of Coalbrook Dale it passes through an uninteresting country, as far as regards scenery, with the exception that the Wrekin and its outlines are conspicuous on the l. The greater part of the district between Coalbrook Dale and Wellington is occupied by furnaces, forges, collieries, and brickyards, brilliant enough at night-time, but black, dirty, and dusty in the day. An additional feature of dreariness is caused by the dismantled

colliery stacks and engine houses, showing that the mineral treasures underneath have been exhausted. In fact, so much is this the case that the colliers have gradually left the west of the coalfield and migrated to the eastern outcrop. The Coalbrook Dale *coalfield* has a triangular form, with its base in the valley of the Severn and its northern apex at Newport. Along its western side it is bounded partly by a great fault, which brings in the New Red sandstone, and partly by the Silurian rocks of the Wrekin, which rises with its smooth and arched back to a height of 1,335 ft. above the sea, and half that amount above the general level of the country around. Along its eastern side the coalfield is bounded by Permian strata, under which the carboniferous beds pass. The general dip of the strata is eastward; and in making a traverse to the foot of the Wrekin we cross in succession the base of the coalmeasures, the millstone grit, carboniferous limestone, a bed of basalt, and at length reach the Silurian and older rocks which form the general foundation of the carboniferous formations in this district.

There are about 6 seams of workable coal, giving a thickness of 27 ft. altogether; but the field is much broken by faults, the principal of which, the Lightmoor fault, runs from N. to S., and has a throw of 100 yds. The fossil collector will have great success here in coalmeasure fossils, and particularly in fish remains and shells (*Introduction*, p. 12); but for particulars he should consult Mr. Prestwich's exhaustive memoir in "Geol. Transactions," 2nd Series, vol. v. Climbing the steep bank on the l. of Ironbridge, the road leads

1½ m. to **Broseley**, an unattractive town, principally dependent on its potteries and brickyards. Tobacco-pipes are also largely made. The town, though ancient and mentioned in old documents as Burwardesley, contains very little of interest, except the *ch.* which is of Perp. date, and was restored in 1845. It is subject to the mother ch. of Wenlock. There is an E. Dec. fountain of Grinshill stone, erected as a memorial to Mr. Pritchard, a native of Broseley, and once High Sheriff of Salop. "A spring of petroleum was discovered here in 1711. The burning well, as it was called, was shown as a curiosity for several years, when the supply of petroleum failed. The spring broke out again in 1747, and yielded about 3 or 4 barrels a day; but in 1752 the spring was cut into in searching for coals, and the quantity yielded since has been but small."

1 m. W. of Broseley is **Benthall**, where are the celebrated encaustic tile works of Messrs. Maw, who have a large establishment, employing a number of hands; and adjoining it is *Benthall Hall* (R. Bateman, Esq.), an Elizabethan building of the date 1535, and built by William Benthall on the site of an earlier mansion. *Benthall Ch.* contains monuments to the families of Browne and Benthall. The neighbourhood is particularly interesting to the geologist. The lowland to the W. of Coalbrook Dale, looking towards Buildwas, is Silurian (Wenlock Shale); and the lofty ridge including Benthall Edge and Lincoln Hill is Wenlock limestone, with millstone grit reposing on it. On Benthall Edge fossil collectors have found beautiful specimens of *Favosites aspera*, *F. gothlandica*, *F. multipora*, *Halysites catenulatus*, &c. *Tyke's Nest*, the highest point of Wenlock Edge, is 417 ft. above the Severn valley. The *Birches*, between Coalbrook Dale and Buildwas, was in 1773 the scene of an extraordinary convulsion, which altered the whole aspect of the country and turned the bed of the Severn.

Following the river bank, the rly. receives the Coalbrook Dale and Wellington branch, which crosses the valley, joining it, together with

the Craven Arms and Wenlock Line (Rte. 6), at

23 m. **Buildwas Junct.** Close to the rly., and ½ m. beyond the stat., are the picturesque ruins of **BUILDWAS ABBEY** * (from *beild*, a "shelter," and *was*, "an alluvial flat;" cf. Sugwas and Moccas, and Rotherwas, Herefordshire), once one of the finest chs. in the West of England, founded for monks of the Cistercian Order in 1135, by Roger de Clinton, Bp. of Chester, and Crusader, though Leland attributes it to Matilda de Bohun, wife of Sir Robert Burnell. It is probable that an earlier building existed here, for a tradition narrates that "there was one of the ancient Bishops of Lichfield that was in Offa, King of Merce's tyme, that lived an Hermite life at Buldewas, after such tyme as the pall of the Archbishop of Lichfield was taken from Lichfield and restored again to Canterbury." It was a cruciform building, with a massive tower rising from the intersection, and the existing remains comprise the greater part of the walls and the chapter-house. "The chancel has been altered in the 13th cent., but not rebuilt; the nave has not been altered, but its two sides are not quite of the same date. It is evident that, as usual, the choir was built first, and the nave by degrees afterwards; the latter has Pointed arches, but the character of the work is not late, probably about 1150. The arches are merely recessed and not moulded, and the capitals are scolloped only. The clerestory windows are round-headed."—*Rickman.* The ch. is 163 ft. long by 26 ft. 8 in. broad; the nave, 70 ft. long, including 5 bays; the choir, with 2 bays and crossing, 62 ft.; the square-ended presbytery, 34 ft. by 26 ft.; and the transept, with 2 chapels in each wing, 84 ft. The chancel is lighted by a 3-light Norm. window, and contains on the S. side 3 E. Eng. sedilia, divided by slender pillars, and the capitals and arches having the violet ornament. The **Chapter-house** is in good preservation, and is oblong in shape, vaulted in 9 compartments, and supported by 4 slender columns; those N.E. and S.W. octagonal, those placed diagonally to them circular. It contains several 13th-cent. stone coffins, with beautiful crosses. The chapter-house, over which was the dormitory, formed the eastern boundary of the cloisters, which stood on the N. of the ch. Opposite the chapter-house door was a beautiful gateway, which fell down in 1828. The abbot's house (restd.) contains the ambulatory, the chapel, and a large hall of the 13th cent., with some interesting doorways and carved stones. There is also a curious series of underground passages, said, by a customary but most improbable tradition, to communicate with Wenlock. The ceiling of the hall is of oak and Spanish chestnut. It is entered by a good Norm. doorway, and lighted by beautifully moulded Norm. windows, one being on either side the door. The renovated "Buildwas Abbey" is the seat of the Misses Moseley, and necessarily renders many ancient features of the Abbot's Lodge and other details undistinguishable. The establishment at Buildwas was very wealthy, and possessed no fewer than 9 granges in different parts of Shropshire, 2 in Staffordshire, and 1 in Derbyshire, besides the parsonages of Leighton, Buildwas, and Hatton. The abbey also held jurisdiction over the Savigniac House of St. Mary's, Dublin, over the Abbey of Basingwerk, in Flintshire, that of Dunbrody, in county Wexford, which was so waste and bare, that they transferred the seigneury; and the Montgomeryshire abbey of Strata Marcella. In Henry II.'s reign the abbey was celebrated for possessing a cope worked by the hands of Fair Rosamond, which was doubtless an object of much curiosity, and, probably, no little gain; but in 1406 Hugh Burnell was fain to give the advowson of Rushbury to the convent, to compensate for the losses

[*H. B. Shrop.*]

which the burning of the abbey by the Welsh had caused. This was chiefly confined to the roof. After passing Buildwas, the line still keeps close to the Severn, which now, however, winds through a level, well-cultivated district. The hills have fallen back to a considerable distance, the Wrekin being the most conspicuous object some 4 m. to the rt. On l., amidst wooded hills, is *Buildwas Park* (W. W. G. Phillipps, Esq.), and on rt., across the river, Leighton village and *Hall* (T. F. Kynnersley, Esq.)

Leighton *Ch.* contains the recumbent effigy of a knight in mail armour, supposed to be Sir Titus de Leighton, 1315, and to have been brought from Buildwas at the Dissolution. "Sir Richard, who was an ancestor of Sir Baldwin Leighton of Loton, reserved to himself in a certain deed of feoffment a power to make a park in his manor of Leighton."—*Shirley.*

26 m. **Cressage** *Stat.* The river is here crossed by a timber bridge. Cressage obtained its name from a famous old oak (Cpiſtes ác—Christ's oak), under which, traditionally, Christian missionaries preached Christ to the pagan Saxons. This tree, said to have been in the centre of the village, has long disappeared with the village cross, which succeeded it; but there are still the remains of another large tree, called the Lady Oak, within view of the rly. on the l., which has been propped and clamped with iron, and with the scant foliage of which that of a young tree, planted by the villagers, mingles.

28½ m. **Cound.** On l. is *Cound Hall* (A. C. McCorquodale, Esq.), and on rt., nearly 3 m., is Wroxeter, the ancient Roman-British city of Uriconium (Rte. 8). *Cound Ch.* contains an E. Norm. font with carvings round the upper portion. It consists of a fine old tower, nave, chancel, and side aisles, N. and S., divided by pointed arches resting on columns having plain lined capitals. On the S. side is a piscina.

30 m. **Berrington** *Stat.*; 1½ m. on rt. the Severn is crossed at Atcham Bridge. The **Church** contains the mutilated and unidentified effigy of a knight in wood with crossed legs. He is locally known as "Owd Scriven of Brompton," but there is no reason to suppose that the name is correct. The font has faces as large as life carved on it. It closely resembles the carving at Stottesdon, and is probably also of pre-Conquest date. At 33½ m. a junction is made with the Ludlow and Hereford line, and at 34 m. the traveller enters the joint stat. of Shrewsbury.

ROUTE 5.

CLUN AND DISTRICT.

Road.	Places.
	Craven Arms
3 m.	**Aston on Clun**
4 m.	**Clunbury**
6½ m.	**Clunton**
9 m.	**Clun**
13 m.	**Newcastle**
19 m.	**Anchor Inn**

	Clun
abt. 12 m.	Walk over hills to **Castell Bryn Amlwg**

	Clun
6 m.	**Bishop's Castle**
4 m.	**Lydbury North**

	Clun
abt. 10 m.	Walk over hills to **Knighton**

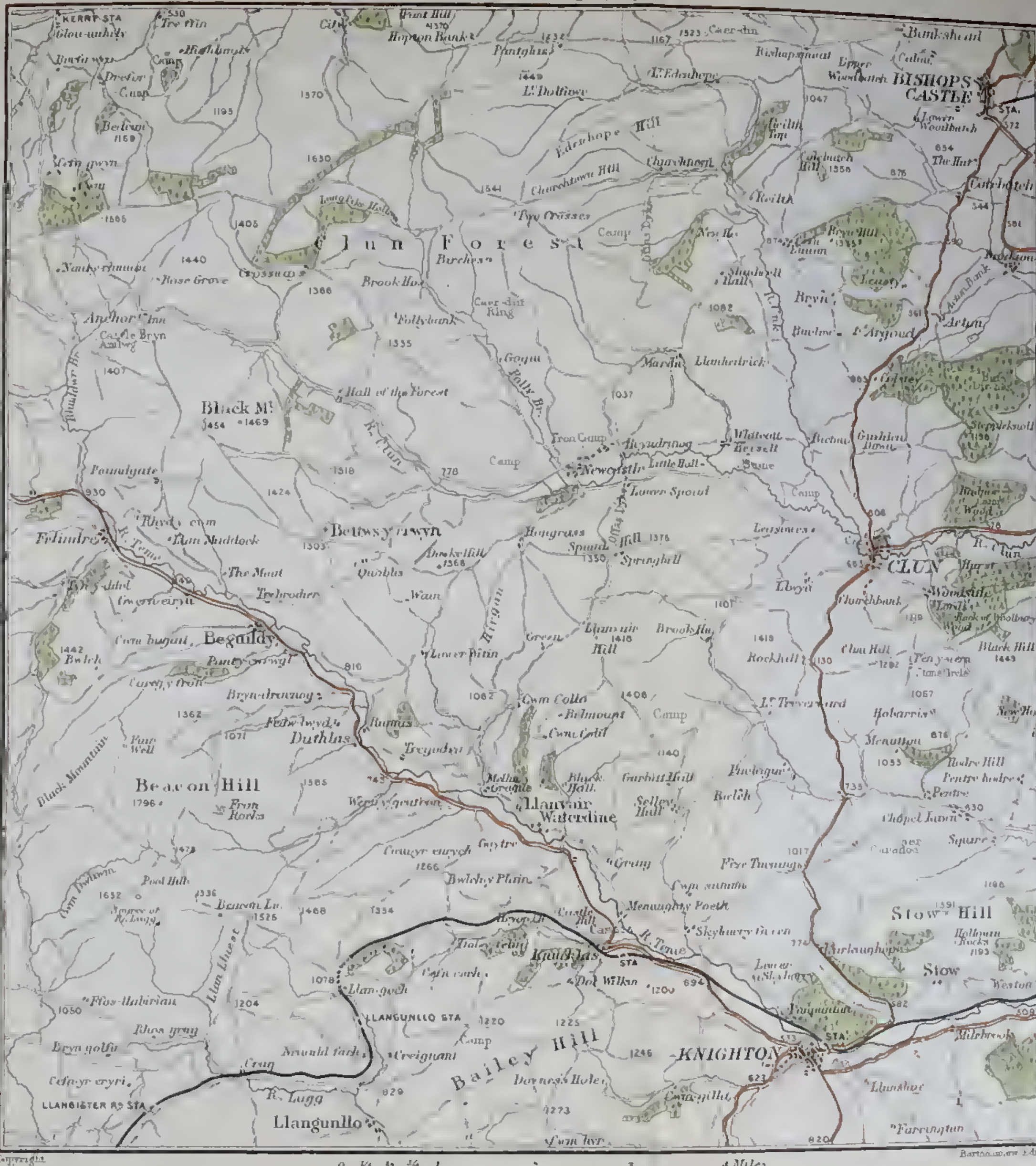
The district of Clun is one of the least accessible and most beautiful portions of Shropshire. It may best be reached from Craven Arms Junct., where (or from the Inn at Clun) a conveyance may be obtained.

For the first 2 m. the road lies close to the Central Wales br. of the L. & N. W. Rly.

3 m. **Aston on Clun.**

4 m. In the valley to the l. **Clunbury.**

CLUN AND DISTRICT



London John Murray, Albemarle Street

5 m. **Purslow** Hundred House. Here the road branches to Walcot Park on rt. and to Hopton Castle, l.

6½ m. **Clunton.**

9 m. **Clun,** ✠ one of the very quietest and most out-of-the-way of Shropshire towns, situated on the river Colonne or Clone, which is crossed by an ancient bridge of unequally sized arches. In fact, the "sleepy hollow"-ness of the district is described in a popular doggrel:

> "Clunton and Clunbury,
> Clungunford and Clun,
> Are the quietest places
> Under the Sun."

But it was not always so, having been, as a border town, the scene of continual forays and incursions.

The **Castle**, of which sufficient is left to show its former importance, was built by Fitzalan, afterwards Earl of Arundel, in the reign of Stephen. After a long siege and many a fierce assault, it was stormed by the Welsh prince Rees (circ. 1196) and committed to the flames. It is believed to have been the original of the "Garde Doloreuse" to which Raymond Berenger invited Gwenwyn, the Prince of Powys; which Sir Walter Scott has thus described in his "Betrothed":

"A place strong by nature and well fortified by art, which the Welsh Prince had found it impossible to conquer either by open force or stratagem, and which, remaining with a strong garrison in his rear, often checked his invasions by rendering his retreat precarious. The river washes on three sides the brow of the proud eminence on which the Castle is situated, curves away from the fortress and its corresponding village on the W., and the hill sinks downwards to an extensive plain, so extremely level as to indicate its alluvial origin." Clun Castle was dismantled first of all by Owain Glyndwr in his rebellion against Henry IV., and afterwards blown up by the Parliamentary forces. It is now the property of the Duke of Norfolk, who takes his first title, that of Baron Clun, from the place. Mary, daughter and co-heir of Henry Fitzalan, married Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk, and carried the earldom of Arundel and the barony of Clun into that family in the person of her son Philip, Earl of Arundel, who died 1595, under an attainder.

The earthworks are 4 in number, viz. a conical mound about 60 ft. above the river, with very steep sides, having a diameter of 40 ft. at top, on which the keep is placed, and 3 others separated from it and from one another by ditches. These are of Anglo-Saxon origin, and date from the 9th or 10th cents. The keep, of which a considerable portion remains, is an exception to the rule that shell and not rectangular keeps are placed on mounds. It will be noticed that the works of this rectangular keep are carried to the foot of the mound on the N. side. It possessed 3 stages. The remainder of the mound was encircled by a curtain wall, of which fragments, including a semicircular tower or bastion, remain. There are no traces of walls on any of the other platforms. The **Church** (restd. G. E. Street, R.A., archt.) has a Norm. nave and E. Eng. chancel. The Norm. tower is low, square, of great strength, and probably served as a place of refuge in trouble. The gable of the N. door is half timbered, and there is a fine old lych gate. There is a singular 15th-cent. wood canopy suspended over the E. end of the chancel. The N. aisle has a good roof, and at its E. end is a small but elaborate brass to Robert Howard, ob. 1653.

There is here an **Almshouse**, the Hospital of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, founded 1614 by the Earl of Northampton for the support of 18 poor men, who receive 10*s.* weekly, together with a hat and gown.

Excursions:—

(*a*) **Clun Valley** to *Anchor Inn*. Cross the bridge and turn off at once to the rt. As the road ascends a slight eminence an excellent view of the Castle is obtained, and the strength and importance of its position can be estimated. The road keeps to the l. of the stream, passing a hollow oak tree of great age.

At 1¾ m. a side road on the r. leads to *Whitcott Keysett*, a small hamlet. The tourist should turn down here and will see a stile on the l. immediately after crossing the Clun. Entering a field by this stile, he will find a very remarkable **Menhir** or standing stone. It is

8 ft. 6 in. in height, 6 ft. in extreme breadth, and from 8 to 12 in. in thickness. It is so set that its edges are nearly due E. and W. and its surfaces N. and S. Returning to the road, at 3 m. a large farm, *Lower Spoad*, is reached on the l. **Offa's Dyke** crosses the valley by this farm, and can be well seen on either side. It was constructed by Offa, King of Mercia, 758–796, who conquered the land between the Severn and the Wye and formed the boundary of the Welsh territory. Any Welshman found bearing arms on the English side of the dyke was liable to lose his right hand. On the W. side of the dyke and on the N. of the valley on the top of a round hill, at the foot of which is *Newcastle Ch.*, is a round earthwork, *Vron Camp*.

4 m. **Newcastle.** A small hamlet of scattered houses situated in a most exquisite valley. The scenery here is most beautiful and practically unvisited by tourists. The road now gradually ascends, still following the river through a lovely valley to 7 m. *Hall of the Forest*, a large farm, deriving its name from having been the most important holding in Clun Forest, which in the reign of Henry VIII. contained 1,700 acres, a good amount of timber, red deer, and roes, according to Leland.

10 m. *The Anchor*, a small roadside inn by which the Clun rises, is a few yards from Rhuddwyr brook, which forms the R. Teme and the boundary of Shropshire. (See Note at end of Excursion *b*.)

(*b*) By the hills to **Castell Bryn Amlwg**. Cross the bridge, take the road to the rt. of the ch., and then take the first turning to the rt., the road passes *Llwyn*. At the cross roads, take the footpath through a gate on the rt., which leads over the moor to a farm called Burfield. Pass through the farm buildings, turning to the r. in front of the farm and regain the moor at the edge of the clearing. Keep close to the fence until **Offa's Dyke** is reached; the structure of this remarkable earthwork can here be well studied. Keep straight on, passing about 1 m. farther through cross roads. The road leads over *Dowke Hill* (1,366 ft.), where there is a charming view of Newcastle and the Clun valley to **Bettws-y-Crwyn**, where there is an exceedingly isolated ch., rectory, and farm. Take the rt. at the fork ½ m. farther on, go through the next cross roads, the road is then joined by another on the l. About ¼ m. beyond this junction, turn sharp to the l. through a gate beside a plantation which stands in the fork. Follow the path thus entered until **Castell Bryn Amlwg** is reached. This remarkable frontier earthwork is surrounded by a high vallum, in which there is an oblique entrance on the E. The mound exhibits, where the turf has been removed, courses of masonry, but there are no walls still left standing. This earthwork is traditionally associated with the campaign of Caractacus.

In the hollow to the W. is the Rhuddwr brook, on the opposite side of which is Radnorshire. The pedestrian is now 1 m. from the *Anchor* Inn. (See Excursion *a*.)

[Note.—This excursion can well be combined with the first by arranging for a vehicle to meet the tourist at the Anchor. A trap can also possibly be hired there.]

Distance to Castell Bryn Amlwg about 12 m.

(*c*) To **Bury Ditches, Bishop's Castle, Lydbury North**, and **Walcot Park.**

[This route is about 25 or 30 m. It can be shortened by omitting the latter part and taking train at Bishop's Castle to Craven Arms. The latter part may form a separate excursion, returning from Lydbury by Brockton and Colstey.]

Take the Bishop's Castle road, a little beyond the first milestone the pedestrian will take the first turn on the rt. and pass through *Guilden* Down. At the fork take the l. road, which leads to a wood. This must

be traversed and **Bury Ditches** will come in sight. They are elliptical in form, and enclose within 3 very lofty valla, covered with trees, mostly pines of great age and huge size, an area of 3 or 4 acres which is uncovered by trees. The only original entrance appears to have been on the E. The hill on which this earthwork stands is a large knoll, very steep on all sides except the N.E., where the approach is more gradual. There is a magnificent view from the summit, especially on the E. towards the Longmynd and the Stiperstones. Botanists have found the oak fern and the prickly shield fern (*Polystichum aculeatum*) ; also *Fedia olitoria* (lamb's lettuce), *Dianthus caryophyllus* (wild clove pink), and *Bidens cernua* (nodding sun-marigold). If the tourist is driving, he can regain his carriage at *Acton* by gaining the N. side of the wood, and taking a footpath which passes to the l. of a small pool of water. The détour is about 4 m. If walking he may descend to the road on the E. of the ditches, having reached which he will turn to the l., and having passed a tumulus on the l. will reach *Brockton*. About ¾ m. beyond this he turns to the l. for *Colebatch*, where he will regain the main Bishop's Castle road. Turn to the rt. and pursue the road for 1½ m. to

BISHOP'S CASTLE ✡ which is as quiet a little town as Clun, and with less of interest.

It was originally called Lydbury Castle, and founded by the Bp. of Hereford before 1127, for the protection of the dwellers on the border, where that prelate would have control over 18,000 acres of territory, and become of necessity a Lord Marcher. It was not a popular residence, however, as appears from a letter of Prince Edward in 1263, from Shrewsbury to the King, desiring him to compel Bp. Aquablanca to abide in the Castle of Lydbury. Bp. Swinfield passed 4 nights there on his visitation in May 1290, and his castle had a dovecot and garden, a range of forest, woodland, and a park for deer.

Its situation is picturesque on the summit and slopes of a hill, at the bottom of which, and almost outside the town, is the **Church**, originally a Norm. building, which has been rebuilt, saving the tower. There is a tradition that Bishop's Castle extended much farther to the S., probably arising from the position of the ch. Of the Castle, which belonged to the Bps. of Hereford, there is no trace beyond the walls of the keep, a few fragments of which are to be seen on the site of a bowling-green attached to the inn. There is an excellent view from this green. At Bishop's Castle was born Jeremiah Stephens, 1664, a prebendary of Biggleswade, and colleague of Sir Henry Spelman in his work on the English Councils.

The tourist should return to the ch. and take the road leading past it, which crosses the main road by which he reached Bishop's Castle. Go straight on up the hill to a fork and take the rt. lane, which leads directly to Lydbury. (If driving it will probably be better to go round by Totterton Hall (W. H. Whittaker, Esq.), turning to the rt. immediately beyond the house.)

Lydbury North has a very interesting **Church**, the tower is squat and massive, with exceedingly thick walls, well fitting it to be used for defensive purposes. The fabric of the ch. has been much altered at various times. The rood screen remains, and on the wall over it are a well-preserved set of Commandments etc., dated 1615, an excellent example of the kind. The chancel possesses some Norm. windows, and the E. wall has 2 stone brackets, on each of which there is a large carved and gilt wooden candlestick (17th cent.) There is a Norm. font and a Norm. door on the S. of the chancel. The N. chapel is the property of the Plowden family, and contains many of their memorials, together with the original stone altar. The S. chapel, which has a large room over it, is that of the Walcot family.

[1 m. E. is **Plowden Hall**, seat of W. F. Plowden, Esq., whose family has been settled here since the siege

of Acre. "There is an old tradition that an ancestor who was taken prisoner at the siege of Acre vowed that if he ever obtained his liberty, he would build a chapel when he returned to Plowden. He recovered his freedom, and built the chapel adjoining the parish ch. of Lydbury North, which has long been used as the burying-place of the family."—*Walford.* Near here is a small R.C. ch. and schools, built and maintained by the Plowden family.]

Follow the road through Lydbury to the W. until the inn is passed. Turn to the l. round this, and the gates of **Walcot Park** are seen. The traveller may pass through here on his return to Clun. This is the residence of the Earl of Powis, whose ancestor bought it from the Walcots in the last cent. The house is rather plain, of red brick, but the grounds are charming, and are ornamented with an artificial lake of considerable length. The road winds through the park, which it leaves near *Kempton.* The tourist will keep straight on, rejoining the main Clun road at Purslow Hundred House, 5 m. from Clun.

(*d*) To **Knighton.** Take the Craven Arms road, and at the end of the village cross the river by a wooden bridge. A field path in front and to l. leads to a road, which should be followed to the l. until *Woodside* is reached. Turn to the rt. up a well-wooded valley. The wood on the rt. is *Lord's Wood*, in the centre of which is an outcrop of stone, the *Rock of Woolbury*, visible from the hills above. Arrived at the summit of *Pen-y-Wern*, there are to the rt., in a clump of fir trees, some traces of a stone circle. Keep straight on along the side of Black Hill, the road then works round the side of Hodre Hill, until *Pentre Hodre* is reached. Take the road to l. leading to *Bryncaled*, and thence to the main Bucknall road. From *Bryncaled* onwards fine views of the Red Lake Valley will be obtained. Cross the main road and take a field path on the rt. which leads up Stow Hill by a gradual ascent past a farm called *Fron*, until the summit is nearly reached, whence the path proceeds along the ridge. From here a good view of the Clun **Caer Caradoc** can be obtained lying nearly due N. This mountain is extremely interesting to antiquaries, on the score of its pretensions to be the scene of the last battle and defeat of Caractacus, King of the Silures, by the Romans under Ostorius. Here, however, there is neither the "amnis vado incerto" of Tacitus, nor yet the higher mountains in the rear for the Britons to fall back upon. It is, however, a fine, almost circular camp, trebly defended to the W., its most accessible quarter, and having two lines of defence on the E. Its entrances are on E. and W., and it commands a fine outlook. It is approached from the Clun road, on the rt., over two or three enclosures. By others Coxwall Knoll, some 3 m. E., is considered to have been the site of Caractacus's camp; but it is difficult to believe that either this, which lacks higher ground to retreat upon, and has no vestige of stone defences, or Caer Caradoc, was the real scene of the struggle in which the British chief's wife and children were taken prisoners.

The path along the ridge should be followed until a well-defined cross footpath is reached. Turn to the l. down this, it leads in a winding manner past *Holloway Rocks*, down to *Stow.* A road from here joins the main Ludlow and Knighton road, which passes Kinsley Wood to *Knighton* Stat. on the Central Wales br. L. & N. W. Rly.

[Length of this excursion about 10 m.]

ROUTE 6.

FROM KNIGHTON TO WELLINGTON, BY CRAVEN ARMS, WENLOCK, AND COALBROOK DALE.

Rail.	Road.	Places.
		Knighton
4 m.		**Bucknall**
7 m.		**Hopton**
9½ m.		**Broome**
12½ m.		**Craven Arms**
	5 m.	**Delbury**
	7 m.	**Munslow**
	15 m.	**Brocton**
	20 m.	**Wenlock**
		Craven Arms
10½ m.		**Longville**
12½ m.		**Easthope**
18 m.		**Wenlock**

From Knighton (Rte. 5) to Craven Arms the journey is performed by the Central Wales Rly., thence by the Great Western to Wenlock and Wellington.

The Central Wales Line, which runs to Llandovery and Swansea (*Handbook for South Wales*) leaves Knighton and keeps close to the Teme, the valley of which is very charming. On l. is **Stow Hill** and the **Holloway Rocks** (Rte. 5), and 3 m. on rt. are the woods of **Stanage Park** in Radnorshire. There was formerly a "Haye" or enclosure maintained here, "and as appears by an inquest taken in Feb. 1295, on the death of Brian de Brompton, there was a park called Ammareslit. The writ ordering an inquest taken in Dec. 1308 had directed the jurors to value the late Brian de Brompton's manor of Ambreslyth, but the jurors explained that Ambreslyth was no manor, but only a park pertaining to the manor of Stanegge, separately worth 20*s.* per annum." Crossing the Teme the line reaches

4 m. **Bucknall Stat.** Overlooking it is the wooded eminence of **Coxwall Knoll**, which has always been a fruitful source of discussion with antiquaries, as a possible locale of the last battle of Caractacus with the Romans under Ostorius. The proximity of Caer Caradoc (Rte. 5) renders it tolerably certain, at any rate, that the fiercely contested retreat of Caractacus before Ostorius was through this line of country. Moreover, spear points and stone balls, evidently projected from engines, have been found under the N.W. of the hill, and the site of a Roman camp is only some 4 m. distant at Brandon (Brandovium), near Leintwardine. Strong objections to Coxwall, however, are the shallow reach of the Teme at its base; the narrowness of its singular eminence; and the isolated position of the whole knoll. Tacitus also says, "Ostorius transfert bellum in Ordovices"—whereas all these localities are in the country of the Silures. Still, as the historian was not an eyewitness, but wrote his account from hearsay, this point is not necessarily conclusive. Passing the village of Bedstone, and under the wooded brow of Hopton Hill (l.), the line reaches

7 m. *Hopton Stat.* [Hopton Castle, see p. 10]. On rt. *Broadward Hall* (C. Cope, Esq.), and further on (rt.) *Clungunford* village and *House* (J. C. L. Rocke, Esq.) and *Ferney Hall* (W. Hurt-Sitwell, Esq.) A tumulus was opened some years ago close to Clungunford ch. by the late Rev. J. Rocke, who found bones and pottery in it.

9½ m. **Broome Stat**, 12½ m. CRAVEN ARMS JUNCT. (Rte. 1). Near the village of Wistanstow, between Craven Arms and Marshbrook, the Great Western Rly. branch to Wenlock turns off to the rt., running up the valley of the Eaton brook, and at the foot of the wooded terrace-like ridge of Wenlock Edge, which divides Apedale from Corve Dale.

The lover of quiet, pastoral scenery will do well to ascend Corve Dale to Wenlock, the distance from Craven Arms being about 20 m. The antiquary will find much to interest him in the quaint country chs., besides some interesting fortifications and earthworks. The road passes

immediately under Norton Camp (see p. 13), and enters the Dale, leaving to the rt. the village of **Culmington** on the Corve River, the *ch.* of which has a double piscina. Culmington and Siefton are associated in their Saxon ownership as well as subsequent history. *Culmington Manor House* (Edward Wood, Esq.), *Corfton Hall* (H. Champion, Esq.) Still farther to the rt. is *Sutton Court* (Mrs. Powell), at the foot of Sutton Hill. 5 m. Diddlebury or **Delbury**, the restored *ch.* of which contains some E. Norm. details. On the opposite bank of the Corve are some earthworks known as **Cortham**, or Corfham, Castle, which, with the manor, was given to Walter de Clifford, father of Fair Rosamond, it is supposed, as some compensation for her frailty. Here is a well bearing her name. Between Cortham and the Brown Clee Hill is the **Heath**. The *ch.*, or rather the chapel, is a singular old Norm. building with a nave and chancel, but no tower or bell-turret. Externally the buttresses are very characteristic of the Norm. era, and there is a good Norm. doorway with circular-headed arch and moulding. The E. end is lighted by 4 very small Norm. windows, one of which pierces the buttress. 7 m., at **Munslow**, the road and river approach each other. The *ch.* has an E. Eng. chancel and nave with a chapel attached, a S. porch, and a low W. tower. A little farther on is **Millichope Park** (F. St. B. Sladen, Esq.), formerly the seat of the Mores, as far back as Henry VIII.; and in the garden is a memorial temple to 2 members of this family, who died in the last cent. in the naval and military services. The old mansion was taken down about 40 years ago, and the deer park destroyed. The present house is in the Grecian style.

12 m. To rt. 1½ m. is **Holgate**,* the former site of a castle of the same name. Helgot was an obscure Norm. chief, who owned sway in this upper part of Corve Dale between the Conquest and the year of the Domesday Survey, 1078. He appears to have given a hide of land near the Severn, with the fishing rights in the river, to the abbey of SS. Peter and Paul at Shrewsbury on its foundation. The **Church** has a beautiful Norm. door on the S. with 4 series of mouldings, the innermost being of the beaked head type. The font is also Norm. and is ornamented with interlaced mouldings and figures of birds. The tower is very solid, and possesses a peculiar unglazed opening looking into the ch. There are two finely carved oak seats near the E. end of the nave.

Beyond the ch. is a steep conical **mound**, evidently artificial in its origin, and now overgrown by trees, which was probably the earthen keep of some pre-Norm. settler. Beyond the mound is a farmhouse, in one angle of which is incorporated a circular tower in excellent preservation, the only remnant of the former castle. Altogether Holgate forms an excellent instance of an early Norm. settlement in England.

Keeping on the l. side of the Dale, the road passes **Shipton Hall** (R. J. More, M.P.), an exceedingly fine Elizabethan mansion of stone with mullioned windows and a tower.

15 m. **Brockton**, whence the antiquary can diverge to the hill above the road to inspect the circular fortification of the Ditches. 2 m. rt. of Brockton is **Oxenbold**, the ancient residence of the Priors of Wenlock, granted to them by Robert de Girros about 1244.

20 m. *Wenlock.*]

The rly. takes a course on the other or northern side of the Wenlock Edge, passing 6 m. *Harton Stat.*, and 8½ m. *Rushbury Stat.* It is a charming walk of 2 m. to **Cardington** (where the Knights Templars possessed property), and thence to Church Stretton over Cardington and Hope Bowdler Hills.

10½ m. **Longville Stat.** 2 m. to l. is an old house called **Plash**, of Tudor date, chiefly of brick, with fine stacks of moulded chimneys. Some of the

rooms are oak-panelled and picked out with gold stars. The kitchen has some fine oak carving, and the hall an open timber-work roof. Saxton mentions that there was a park here.

12½ m. **Easthope** is passed. Overlooking the rly. is *Lutwych Hall*, the beautiful seat of R. B. Benson, Esq., placed on the edge of the hill, and ornamented with quaint terrace gardens. On the hill above is the circular camp known as **The Ditches**. It includes 8 acres, and is nearly a circle in shape. It is surrounded by an outer and inner fosse and 2 valla, and is in immediate view of Nordy Bank, besides coming within the observation of the Caer Caradoc, Bury Ditches, and the Wrekin defensive stations.

15 m. **Presthope Stat.**

18 m. ✠ **MUCH WENLOCK**,* according to Camden "famous for limestone, but formerly in King Richard II.'s time for a copper mine," is situated on high and exposed ground near the northern end of Wenlock Edge, and this position obtained for it, as we are informed in the "Monasticon," the name of "Winnica" or winding place. It is now little more than a village, which would scarcely be noticeable, were it not for the beautiful ruins of the *Priory*, once one of the richest and most important priories in England. But previous to this date Wenlock was a place of much renown, from its having been the seat of a nunnery and the burial-place of St. Milburgh, granddaughter of Penda, and daughter of Merwald, Kings of Mercia, whose name is also preserved in Stoke St. Milborough. Whatever might have been the extent of this establishment, all traces were destroyed (it was supposed) by the Danes in the 9th cent., although 200 years afterwards it was again chosen for a ch. by Leofric, Earl of Mercia, and his wife Godiva, of Coventry fame, in the time of King Edward the Confessor. But this second Saxon foundation scarcely lasted above 30 years, and we find that its priories were placed at the disposal of Roger de Montgomery, one of the Conqueror's followers, who about the year 1080 founded the present Priory for Benedictines, which was affiliated as a cell or dependency upon the great mother Abbey Church of Clugny. The conventual ch. was formerly dedicated to the Holy Trinity, but subsequently to St. Milburga, whose relics were translated here in 1101. From that time the priory (for the Cluniacs had no abbeys, only priories, in England, dependent on foreign mother churches) increased in riches and importance till the reign of Edward III., when it was seized by the Crown. In Richard II.'s reign it was declared denizen and ceased to be dependent on any foreign house. At the Dissolution the body consisted of a prior, 21 friars, and 11 monks. The **ruins**, which include 30 acres, are close to the parish ch.-yd., and consist of a portion of the S. side of the nave, a fragment of the N. transept, a larger portion of the S. transept, the chapter-house, and the prior's apartments. Sufficient of the foundations remain to show that the total length of the ch. was 401 ft. Of the W. front, which is E. Eng., the great W. window is gone, and there only remains one small one of geometrical style, "that is, a single arch, enclosing two lancet lights, the head filled with an open circle, the jambs of the windows furnished with slender columns, and the arch divided into mouldings." The remains of the nave (S. side) are 3 pointed arches, with a triforium of lancet arches, and above them again a row of clerestory windows. The pillars of the nave support a groined roof, the floor of one apartment lighted by the W. window just mentioned. The S. transept has also 3 arches with clustered columns, and a triforium above. Of the centre tower only the bases of the 4 piers remain, at the intersection of the nave and transepts. In length the minster more than equals Hereford, and exceeds Rochester among our old

cathedrals. In point of structure and symmetry it must have rivalled our noblest churches. The dimensions were 332 ft.; the nave 117 ft. × 38 ft., or, with aisles, 61 ft. 3 in.; the side walls being 60 ft. high. The tower occupied a square 48 ft. × 46 ft.; the transept was 144 ft. from N. to S.; the aisleless Lady Chapel 41 ft. × 23 ft. (*M. Walcott*).

The **chapter-house**—the richest building now extant—was entered from the cloister by a circular-headed doorway, which with the windows on either side are ornamented with chevron mouldings. The most perfect portion is the N. and S. wall—"at about 3 ft. from the floor is a projection having a chevron moulding, from which rise two clusters of 6 small round shafts which divide the space into 3 compartments of 15 ft. These columns are 5 ft. high, and have capitals variously ornamented, from which issue a corresponding number of ribs which formed the groined roof. In the spaces between the clusters of columns are 5 small circular arches, resting on columns consisting of 3 shafts, above which, up to the groining of the roof, the space is covered by rows of intersecting arches, each springing from the intersecting point of the arches beneath them. The capitals display every variety of fanciful design on the S., but on the N. the sculptures have never been completed, and the decoration is scanty, except on the groups of pillars from which rose the broad ribs of the vaulting, which have elaborate carvings in a continuous pattern on their capitals. This beautiful specimen of Norm. architecture is probably the work of Roger de Montgomery, and from the bases of 6 plain Norm. pillars which a few years ago were to be seen in the choir, it is probable that it also was of the same date."—*E. S. A.*, "*Arch. Cambrensis.*"

In the S.W. angle of the cloister garth is a beautiful **lavabo**, with the exception of that at Durham the only one in England of the kind; this has been comparatively recently discovered. It was originally covered by a roof supported by marble columns, the bases of some of which remain, whilst 2 perfect and complete specimens are in the prior's house. The lavabo appears to have been a circular trough with a hole in the centre into which the water trickled. This is still thickly encrusted with lime salts which were deposited during its period of use. On the exterior are two carved tablets, one of which represents our Lord's call to St. Peter.

To the S. of the chapter-house is the **Prior's Residence** * (now inhabited by C. Milnes Gaskell, Esq., D.L.), one of the most beautiful and interesting buildings in England, and preserving, thanks to the care which has been bestowed upon it and a judicious absence of restoration, probably more of its original characteristics than any similar building elsewhere. It seems to have occupied part of a quadrangle, of which two sides are now left. One side consists of what was probably a Norm. hall lighted by windows on the first floor, which are still perfect, with foliage and Norm work. The other consists of a building of 2 stories surmounted by a very high roof, and contains some of the principal apartments. Its whole length is about 100 ft., and it has a light and elegant open cloister extending throughout and communicating with the rooms on either floor. The cloister or gallery is divided into compartments by large buttresses at regular intervals, and these again are subdivided into 2 compartments by smaller buttresses, the space between being filled in with 2 trefoil-headed lights, and divided horizontally by a transom. The arrangement is the same for the lower story. Notice the water-drains from the upper rooms, carved with lions' heads and grotesque figures. On the ground floor is also the kitchen, and opening into it is a *garderobe*, such as often occurs in mediæval buildings. Next to this is what may once have been

the bakehouse, now the housekeeper's room. At the end is the oratory or prior's private chapel, which contains an altar, open underneath for the reception of relics, and a stone reading-desk, carved with E. Eng. foliage. The prior's Hall is a fine room of 3 bays, lighted by 4 windows of 2 lights each, on the first floor, over what is now the kitchen. This was not the refectory of the abbey, but merely a private dining-room. It contains a fireplace of 17th cent. date, and a drain at the N.E. angle, ending in a lion's head.

A flowered cornice runs round the top of the wall, and the roof is of oak, of great beauty of construction and design. Adjoining the Hall is the prior's parlour. Mr. Blore considers the age of the building to be about the middle of the 15th cent., although "the roof indicates an age anterior to the date of the building of which it forms a part." A detached building to the S.W. of the prior's house, the use of which is unknown, has 5 corbels on the side next to the ch., which seem to indicate the former existence of a room on that side. A large portion of the Priory was pulled down many years ago by a vandal in the shape of a house agent, but further ruin was stopped by the then Sir W. W. Wynn, from whom, by an interchange of property, it passed to the late W. Milnes Gaskell, M.P.

The **parish Church**, which closely adjoins the abbey ruins, is of mixed style, from Norm. to Perp., and consists of chancel, nave, and aisles, with a low tower and spire. On the N. of the chancel is an ambry and piscina; on the S. are sedilia. On either side of the E. window are niches for a figure, under Dec. canopies. There are 3 *brasses*. In the ringing chamber there is a remarkably fine piece of late Norm. work in connection with the window of what was the W. face wall of the ch. This must have been covered shortly after it was built by the erection of the Norm. tower. A half-timbered building contains in its first room the Petty Sessions Court; here is some good carved oak and the ancient stocks on wheels. Behind this, and also containing some fine oak furniture, is the Council chamber, for, notwithstanding its small size, Wenlock is a corporate borough, a charter having been granted to it by Edward IV.

Amongst other interesting buildings the following should be especially noted:

(1) The **almoner's** house, which is the oldest domestic building in the town. The back of this house is worthy of observation.

(2) A pair of half-timbered houses, dated 1682, with balcony and twisted balustrade.

(3) **Ashfield Hall**, a fine half-timbered house with a gateway, now a common lodging-house. This building formerly possessed another wing on the l. similar to that in the rt. Here Charles II. slept on his way to Boscobel. Wenlock has also a Corn Market and Agricultural Library, and an almost unique annual festival of "Olympic Games," for the encouragement of field sports and athletic exercises, founded in 1850.

Rly. from Wenlock to Craven Arms, 18 m., and to Buildwas Junct. 3 m., there meeting the Severn Valley line.

2 m. E. of Wenlock is **Barrow**, the (restored) *ch.* of which is also Norm., although very plain. The windows are semicircular and deeply splayed. At the restoration, a fresco was discovered under the plaster, of a full-sized knight on horseback. Tom Moody, a well-known huntsman of Lord Forester, was buried here in 1796. Barrow is about 1 m. from Willey Park, the seat of Lord Forester (Rte. 4).

From Wenlock the rly. passes several lime-works and begins its descent through a pretty wooded country to Buildwas Junct. [The remainder of this route is described in Rte. 4.]

ROUTE 7.

FROM WOLVERHAMPTON TO NANTWICH, BY SHIFFNAL, WELLINGTON, AND MARKET DRAYTON (GREAT WESTERN RLY.)

Rail.	Road.	Places.
		Wolverhampton
6 m.		Albrighton
	4 m.	Boscobel
	3½ m.	Tonge
11 m.	3 m.	Shiffnal
15 m.		Oakengates
18 m.		Wellington Junct.
	Walk to Wrekin	
		Wellington
30 m.		Hodnet
35 m.		Market Drayton
	2½ m.	Moreton Say
	7 m.	Ightfield
	10 m.	Whitchurch
		Market Drayton
39 m.		Adderley
41½ m.		Audlem
47 m.		Nantwich

Quitting Wolverhampton by the Great Western Rly. (Low-level Stat.), the traveller passes 4½ m. *Codsall Stat.* (*Handbook for Staffordshire*), and enters the county of Salop a little before reaching *Albrighton Stat.* 6 m.

Albrighton, which closely adjoins Donington, the 2 chs. being within a stone's throw of each other, is a place of considerable antiquity and is supposed to derive its name from the Saxon Lord, Albericus. However this may be, it is certain that mention is made of Nicholas, priest of Alberitone in the year 1186, which is about the date of some portions of the *ch.* It has a low Norm. W. tower, the upper portion of later date than the lower, and on each side the window is perforated by a singular circular opening.

The E. window is Dec., with good tracery, but nevertheless has a transom. There is a S. aisle with a 3-light window, and a rose-light above it. On the N. side of the chancel is a fine altar-tomb, discovered during the operation of lowering the floor of the S. aisle, and doubtless re-erected here at the restoration of the ch. The legend around it describes it as the resting-place of John Talbot of Grafton, Knight, and his wife, Frances, daughter and heiress of a Clifford of Chelmarsh; and this John appears to have been the son of another John Talbot, of whom Leland mentions the connection with this place by marriage with the heiress. Leland's reference is as follows: "Syr John Talbot that married Trouts beks heire dwelleth in a goodlie logge in the hy toppe of Albrighton Parke, it is in the very egge of Shropshire, 3 m. from Tunge." There was another fine marble altar-tomb; but that has disappeared since 1700, and was probably broken up. *Albrighton Hall* (A. C. Lyon, Esq.)

3 m. to the S., just within the borders of Staffordshire, is **Patshull**, the beautiful seat of the Earl of Dartmouth. This property belonged in the 17th and 18th cents. to the family of Astley, who erected the house in the Vanbrugh style, but afterwards sold it to the Pigots, who in their turn disposed of it to the late Earl of Dartmouth. The house was greatly improved under *Burn*, and now consists of a centre and wings of red stone, the latter carried up so as to overtop the former. The gardens are charming, and the park contains most picturesque scenery and 2 lakes, the waters of one of which fall in a cascade of 30 ft. From the situation of the house on a raised mound in a very elevated portion of the park, it commands an extensive view over Shropshire and Cheshire. Above it is a belt of woodland, surrounding the old half-timbered hall, now a farmhouse; in the yard behind is a curious stone font.

Patshull Church is an Italian building of the close of the 17th cent., and is entered by a portico, with an armed figure in one corner. It has 2

altar-tombs: 1. To Sir John Astley and his wife (temp. Henry VI.), with panels of his 7 sons and 8 daughters. 2. Sir Richard Astley, recumbent between his 2 wives. A squadron of horse is depicted on this tomb. There are also monuments to the Pigot family. The ch. is filled with stained glass. memorials to former Earls of Dartmouth. To the S.E. of Patshull is

Pattingham, a fine old *ch.* of different dates. The nave is Norm., the chancel E. Eng., and the S. aisle Dec. It has been restored by *Scott.*

[A most interesting Excursion can be made from Codsall or Albrighton stats. to Boscobel and White Ladies, N. of the rly., returning by Tonge. From Codsall the way to Boscobel (4 m.) lies through a pretty open country, skirting the woods of Chillington to 3 m. Langley. In the distance on rt. is Brewood spire.

From Albrighton the visitor may pass **Donington**, the *ch.* of which has some good stained glass, or he may proceed direct from the stat. to

Shakerley Hall (the Misses Burne), 1 m. beyond which, to the l., is **White Ladies**, in the wooded district formerly known as Brewood Forest. Here are the ruins of an ancient convent for Cistercian nuns, a Norm. structure, founded in the reign of Richard I. Contemporaneous with it was the monastic establishment of the Black Ladies for Benedictine nuns, near Brewood, in the adjoining county of Stafford. The ruins of White Ladies are not large, and consist principally of a wall, a portion of which belonged to the Norm. chapel, and some circular-headed arches. "On the N. side is an open round arch, which might have led into a transept or chapel." The visitor will soon come in sight of the ancient though altered mansion of ✡ **BOSCOBEL**,*

"the scene of such romance, heroism, loyalty, and other noble qualities, as will always command admiration even from those who condemn the cause in which such virtues are exercised." Hither it was that after the sanguinary battle of Worcester in 1651 the unfortunate monarch, Charles II., rode up, closely pursued by Cromwell's troopers, who were scouring the country in all directions. In Boscobel wood lived William Penderel, a woodcutter, while his brother Richard lived at Hobbal Grange, about 1 m. to the W. To these rough and uneducated peasants was the fugitive King committed by the Earl of Derby, who had before now been sheltered in this district, and no men could have carried out these instructions with greater loyalty or at greater personal risk. As Col. Ashenhurst's troop was quartered at Codsall, no time was to be lost, and the King, having disguised himself in a coarse country suit, cutting off his locks and rubbing his hands against the chimney, was conducted by Richard Penderel into the fastnesses of Boscobel woods, while his other brother acted as scout. "The heavens wept bitterly at these calamities, insomuch that the thickest tree in the wood was not able to keep his Majesty dry, nor was there anything for him to sit upon; whereupon Richard went to Francis Yates's house (a trusty neighbour who married his wife's sister), where he borrowed a blanket, which he folded and laid on the ground for his Majesty to sit on. At the same time Richard spoke to the goodwife Yates to provide some victuals and bring it into the wood at a place he appointed her. She presently made ready a mess of some milk and some butter and eggs, and brought them to his Majesty in the wood, who, being a little surprised to see the woman (no good concealer of a secret), said cheerfully to her, 'Good woman, can you be faithful to a distressed cavalier?' She answered, 'Yes, sir, I will die rather than discover you;' with which answer his Majesty was well satisfied."—*Blount.*

That night the King was conducted by Richard to the Severn to endeavour to make his escape into Wales; but finding the roads guarded in every direction, it was thought advisable to return to Boscobel. At three in the morning they reached it, and there found Col. Carless, a fugitive loyalist; but it being deemed too hazardous for the King's shelter, he was taken to the wood and raised into the oak-tree, when "the Colonel humbly desired his Majesty (who had taken little or no rest the two preceding nights) to seat himself as easy as he could in the tree, and rest his head on the Colonel's lap, who was watchful that his Majesty should not fall; and in this position his Majesty slumbered away some part of the day, and bore all these hardships and afflictions with incomparable patience."

The tree now known as Charles's oak, which stands in front of the house within an iron fence, is held by some to be a descendant of the original, which must, it is argued, have been much farther from Boscobel House than the present one —but the whole of Boscobel Forest is a thing of the past, and it would

be difficult for anyone, be he king or peasant, to conceal himself here nowadays. If we reflect that, according to tradition, the forest then came close to the precincts of the house and stood thick and dense, as well as that the oak, if vigorous, is not more hale than other sylvan giants of like reputed longevity, the question of originality as against scionship may be well left "sub judice." A professional writer who visited and measured the oak in July 1878 found that in 21 years it had increased in girth 11 inches, or about ½ an inch annually, since a former visit. Arguing that it would have increased much faster in its prime or even its 2nd cent., he reckons that this tree would have been very small, if not an acorn, in 1651. (See 'Gardeners' Chron.,' N. S., vol. x. p. 497.) The house is the property of Canon Carr, of Holbrook Hall. It is not shown after 5 o'clock P.M., nor on Sundays. In the dining-room, which is panelled with oak, is a portrait of the King; the mantelpiece also of black marble has some sculptured scenes of his escapes. Here also is a portrait of Cromwell. Beyond this room is a small chamber which was an oratory. It contains a curious oak chest made just after the King's escape, and a copy of the contemporary portrait of Dame Penderel. In the garret is the hole, concealed by a trap-door just at the top of the staircase leading thereto, in which the King took his rest after it was thought prudent for him to leave the protection of the wood. This hole is sufficiently large to hide a modest-sized man in a standing position, especially as there was then no flight of steps or ladder to cramp the ingress, and in one of the bedrooms is a small chamber, in the thickness of the chimney, which communicates with the garden outside. The latter hiding-place had been used aforetime for Jesuit priests, whom the Penderels, staunch Catholics, were *au fait* in hiding; and doubtless the Earl of Derby, and probably many other loyal fugitives, had taken advantage of it in the Civil War troubles. The garden is well kept in all its quaint formality, and harmonises with the old-fashioned timber house. In it still stands the "successor and locum tenens" of the arbour where the King sat and read on the Sunday while waiting the return of John Penderel, who had been sent to Moseley to apprise Lord Wilmot of what had happened, to which place his Majesty was conveyed that very night.

From Boscobel the tourist can proceed eastwards to Brewood (*Handbook for Staffordshire*), or return in the opposite direction for 3½ m. to the village of Tonge, passing at the foot of Tonge Knoll, on the summit of which is a clump of Scotch firtrees. From the knoll is a very charming view looking over the wooded park of *Weston*, or Weston-under-Lezard, the seat of the Earl of Bradford. The house is a large cheerful building, with no particular architectural features of interest; but the grounds and gardens are very pretty, and contain a conspicuous domed conservatory. Not far from the house is the *ch.*, in which are several monuments to the family of Bradford.

At Tonge Norton the road falls into the high-road from Wolverhampton to Newport, near a large sheet of water called Norton Mere, prettily covered with water-lilies. From the l. towards the rly. and in about ½ m. the visitor reaches the village of **TONGE**, celebrated for the beauty of its *ch.* and its modern *castle*, which has probably seen more changes than any place of the sort.

"It is stated to have been anciently the seat of Hengist, the Saxon, whom Vortigern called in to his assistance, and having been successful in his warlike engagements, he afterwards begged of Vortigern as much land as an ox-hide could enclose. On his request being granted, he cut the hide into strips, and had as much land as it encompassed, whereon he built the castle."—*Burke.* It afterwards came into the possession of the Pembrugges, and subsequently the Vernons, by marriage of William Vernon, of Haddon,

with Benedicta, sister and heiress of Sir Fulke Pembrugge. The Stanleys were the next possessors by intermarriage with the Vernons, and it was purchased from them by Sir Thomas Harris, a lawyer, whose daughter married William Pierrepoint, and thus brought the property into the ducal family of Kingston. Evelyn, last Duke of Kingston, sold it in 1764 to George Durant; but that family, after a residence of nearly 100 years, has become extinct, and Tonge passed by purchase to its present possessor, the Earl of Bradford. George Durant was Paymaster of the Forces at the time of the capture of the Havannah in 1761, and is said to have amassed an enormous fortune by plunder, a great part of which he laid out in the purchase of this property. He demolished the old castle and erected the present one from his own designs—one of those fantastic buildings of mixed Gothic and Moorish, with conspicuous Turkish domes. The incongruities, however, are partially softened by the warm red of the stone. The place is to a great extent surrounded by water, carried in artificial canals of great depth, and apparently cut for the double purpose of defence and irrigation of the park. On the S. side, however, the river is dry, and picturesquely overgrown with timber and brushwood.

Tonge Church * has been described as a miniature Westminster Abbey on account of the number and beauty of the tombs which it contains. It is a fine example of E. Perp., consisting of nave with very broad aisles, and a central octagonal tower with low spire. The under stage of the tower is on a larger base than the middle, and is bevelled off at the sides. On the N. side of the chancel is the vestry, and there is a S. porch. On this same side is the golden chapel. The ch. is said to be the one described by Dickens in his story of "The Old Curiosity Shop," as that near which little Nell was buried, and was certainly drawn as such by Cattermole. It was restored in 1892 at a cost of about 5,000*l.*, and at the same time the great bell, weighing 48 cwt., which had cracked, was recast. This was originally presented by Sir H. Vernon, who also gave "a rent out of his manor of Norton for tolling it when any Vernon came to town." In the vestry is preserved a curious and highly embroidered purple velvet altar-cloth. Here is also preserved a magnificent and unique ciborium (temp. Henry VIII.), said to have been the work of Holbein, which probably belonged to the ancient College of Tonge. The glass in the E. windows of the chancel was found under the floor of the golden chapel during the restoration. There is much well-carved woodwork in the chancel screen and seats, and especially in the misereres. Note that belonging to the first stall on the rt., the Annunciation with lily in pot bearing a crucifix, which is particularly fine.

The following tombs should be examined before the golden chapel is visited:

(1) An alabaster monument to Sir Richard Vernon and his wife Elizabeth. He was Treasurer of Calais, inherited the estate and arms of Pembrugge, and died in 1451. (2) A similar monument to Sir Fulke Pembrugge and his wife. He died 1408–9, and his widow founded this collegiate ch. in his memory. Connected with this monument is a curious custom noticed by a writer in the "Gentleman's Magazine," at the end of the 18th cent., of the presentation of a fresh garland of roses every midsummer's day, round the effigies of the Lady of Fulke de Pembrugge. This custom is still maintained, though, owing to a mistake, Lady Vernon had the benefit of the garland for a number of years.

(3) Brasses to the Skeffingtons on each side of altar. (W. Skeffington, ob. 1550, S. side.)

(4) A fine altar-tomb with inlaid brasses to Sir William Vernon and his wife Margaret, with effigies of their 12 children.

(5) A renaissance tomb, the detailed ornamentation of which is well worth studying, to Sir Thomas Stanley, who married Margaret Vernon, sister and co-heiress of Dorothy Vernon. His son's effigy is in the lower part of the monument. The inscription on the E. end of this tomb is said, on doubtful authority, to have been written by Shakespeare. The dramatist was not 13 years of age when Sir Thomas Stanley died.

The **Golden Chapel**, on the S. side of the ch., was erected in memory of Arthur Vernon, whose brass is in the floor (ob. 1517) and whose bust is on the W. wall. Unlike the remainder of the ch., which possesses a wooden roof, it has fan-vaulting of beautiful design, which still retains much of the colour with which it was originally decorated. On the walls are the consecration crosses of the chapel itself, as opposed to the church, and also many vestiges of a frescoed pomegranate pattern in red and black. At the E. end is the original altar slab with 7 consecration crosses instead of the usual 5. It is possible that 2 additional crosses may have been added, when the original pair at the back were covered by a super-altar or reredos. Behind the altar are the remains of a fresco of the Crucifixion. In an arch between the chapel and ch. is a monument to Sir H. Vernon and wife, the parents of Arthur Vernon.

Adjoining the demesne of Tonge Castle is *Neachley* (Col. Hon. F. C. Bridgeman). The whole round from Albrighton to Boscobel and back by Tonge will be about 11 m.]

Continuing the route by rly., the traveller passes on l., 2 m. from Albrighton, the pillar, 180 ft. high, of the Wolverhampton *Waterworks*, erected at Cosford Bridge for the purpose of forcing the water up from the river Worf. It is taken to the reservoir at Tattenhall and thence to Wolverhampton. On rt. is Neachley and Tonge.

9 m. rt. **Ruckley Grange** (Sir E. L. Durand, Bart.) The house is modern, but is supposed to have been built on the site of an old "grange," or granary, belonging to Buildwas Abbey, to which it formed a sort of halfway house between Buildwas and Brewood Forest, where the monks had extensive rights of feeding swine and cutting timber.

On l. 1½ m. is **Hatton Grange** (Col. Kenyon Slaney), the grounds of which contain some magnificent beech trees, and are adorned with deep picturesque pools, formed by the damming up of the Twybrook before it joins the Worf. The high ground to the rt. overlooking Ruckley and Shiffnal is *Lezard Hill*, belonging to Lord Stafford, of Cossey.

11 m. The rly. now runs over a lofty bridge overlooking and dividing the quaint-looking town of **Shiffnal** ☆ (formerly called Idsall).

The **Church**,* which has been completely restored, is a cruciform building of several architectural dates. It consists of nave, with aisles, N. and S. transept, chancel (added to which is a S. chapel, called the Moreton chapel), a central tower, and S. porch. There are two good Norm. windows in the N. wall of the chancel, the carving of the pillars to which externally should be noted. On the S. side externally is a recessed tomb containing an inserted female effigy of earlier date.

The S. porch is E. Eng., and has a singular parvise which extends into the ch., and is separated on its E. side from the S. aisle by a screen only instead of a wall. The nave has a hammer-beam roof; the tower is supported by 4 plain E. Eng. arches. Beyond that to the E., and close to it, is a fine late Norm. arch with many mouldings which belonged to the Norm. tower. In the chancel is the recumbent effigy, in full Eucharistic vestments, of Thos. Forster (ob. 1526), a former vicar of the ch., who was also Prior of Wombridge and Warden of Tonge. The Dec. tracery of the E. window is of remarkable beauty.

The Moreton chapel possesses remains of sedilia. Here are monuments to the family of Brigges of Haughton and Ernestry, bearing dates 1596 and 1625, which were removed from the chancel at the restoration. Amongst the celebrities of Shiffnal were Tom Brown, a licentious poet of the 17th cent., and Dr. Beddoes, a noted chemist and man of science, 1754. There are many

good residences immediately adjoining Shiffnal: *Aston Hall* (Mrs. Howard Maclean); *Decker Hill* (Rev. W. Garnett-Botfield); *Haughton Hall* (J. T. Brooke, Esq.), of which records remain from the date 1268, when it was called Haleston, and was the property of Sir Hugh de Halestone. An excursion should be made to **Brimstree Hill**, 1 m. to the S., from the summerhouse on which, though the elevation is not great, one of the finest views in this part of the county is to be obtained, extending into Worcestershire, Staffordshire, and Wales. From Shiffnal the tourist can proceed by a branch line to Coalbrook Dale, through **Madeley**, where formerly existed a park belonging to the Prior and Convent of Wenlock, and licensed by King Edward I. in 1283.

At 13 m. the rly. ascends the hilly district between Shiffnal and Wellington, at the northern portion of the Shropshire coalfield. On rt. is **Priorslee Hall.** It obtains its name from once being the residence of the Prior of a house of Augustine Canons, founded at Wombridge (a little to the N.) in the reign of Stephen. On l. is **Malins Lee**, where are the remains of an E. Norm. chapel, with 3 narrow deeply splayed windows. Its founder is not known. Although naturally the district is broken and hilly, it is far from inviting, owing to the dreary aspect of the collieries, many of which are worked out, and the squalid, tumbledown look of the houses.

15 m. **Oakengates Stat.** Here the L. and N.-W. branch from Coalport crosses the line on its way to join the Shropshire Union Rly. This place, which now reeks with the smoke of collieries, occupies the site of the Roman station Uxacona. A little farther on (rt.) is **Wombridge.** In a garden here are slight remains of the monastery of Canons Regular, founded by William Fitz-Alan of Clun in the 12th cent.

18 m. **Wellington Junct.**, where the latter line from Stafford (Rte. 8) joins the Great Western, both using the same rails from Wellington to Shrewsbury. Hence also the Market Drayton and Nantwich br. is given off.

The town of **WELLINGTON**☆ in itself does not possess very much to detain the tourist, although there is an evident attempt to accommodate modern improvements to the narrow and crooked streets of former days. These include a fair proportion of half-timbered houses. It was noted during the Rebellion for being the first place of rendezvous of Charles I., who marched his forces here Sept. 19, 1642, and then and there delivered an address. The *ch.* is modern, and is only noteworthy for its extreme ugliness, and for containing a good deal of iron in its composition. Wellington has become a place of considerable trade of late years, it being the metropolis for all the northern district of the Shropshire coalfields and for a considerable agricultural population to the N. and W. It has iron foundries, corn mills, a tannery, a glass factory, and several nail and agricultural implement manufactories.

1 m. N. of the town is **Apley Castle**, the seat of Col. Sir Thos. Meyrick, Bart. The house is plain, of the beginning of the present cent., but it is situated in a finely wooded park. Slight remains exist of the old castle, which underwent a siege by the Parliamentary forces in the Civil War. It is thus mentioned by Richard Baxter, who married into the Charlton family: "But it being in the heat of the civil war, Robert, her brother, being for the Parliament, had the advantage of strength, which put her (his wife's mother) to seek relief at Oxford from the King, and afterwards to marry one Mr. Harmer, who was for the King, to make her interest that way. Her house, being a sort of small castle, was garrisoned for the King. But at last Robert procured it to be besieged by the Parliamentary soldiers, and stormed and taken when the mother and chil-

dren were there, and saw part of their building burnt and some lye dead before their eyes, and so Robert got possession of the children."

The great attraction of Wellington is of course the **WREKIN**, ☆ which raises its huge dome some 2 m. to the S. Although of no very great height—only 1,260 ft. above the Severn, and 1,335 above the sea—it is conspicuous far and wide, and forms an unmistakable landmark in every phase of Shropshire scenery. Such a vast tract of country comes under its ken that the old Shropshire toast of "All round the Wrekin" has become a proverb.

To ascend the Wrekin the tourist should make for the Watling Street beyond the workhouse. Take the turn to the l. which leads along the side of the *Ercall*, the lesser hill to the N. of the Wrekin. This should be followed to the *Forest Pavilion*, a place of refreshment. Here turn through a gate and follow the path round the hill, until a cottage is reached where refreshments are also sold. Then climb the strip of green turf which leads up the hill, between two banks, *Hellgate*, the opening in the outer vallum of the camp, the outlines of which are much obliterated by the trees. It then passes between two other banks, *Heavengate*, the opening in the inner vallum. A mound, marking the highest point of the hill, will next be reached. Beyond this is a large outcrop of rock, the **Bladder Stone**, from which there is an extensive **view**.

Nearly due W. is Plinlimmon, slightly N. of which is Cader Idris. Still farther towards the N. are the Breiddens, and beyond them Aran Fowddy terminating the Berwyn range. The elevations to the N. are in Cheshire. S. of Plinlimmon is Corndon, then the Stiperstones, Longmynd, Caradoc, and Lawley in order. Still farther S. are Radnor Forest and the Brecon Beacons. The Clees and Malverns are W. and E. respectively of S. To the E. of Malvern are Abberley, Cleeve, Bredon and the Cotswolds, Clent and Edge Hill in order. The Rev. Mr. Butt is the author of an excellent chart of the horizon from the Wrekin, which can be purchased at the Forest Pavilion. Below the Bladder Stone and between it and another smaller mass of rock is a narrow fissure known as the **Needle's Eye**. In another rock S. of the Bladder Stone is a small pool of water, the **Raven's Bowl**. Instead of returning by the same path the tourist can (*a*) descend the E. side and make his way by Little Wenlock to Coalbrook Dale or Buildwas, the distance to either being between 3 and 4 m., or (*b*) descend by a very steep path on the S.W. face (a continuation of the path from the cot tage), entering at the foot a trackway which runs straight to Wroxeter (p. 62), whence it is about 3 m. to Upton Magna Stat. (p. 63). The Wrekin is stated by geologists to be the oldest mountain in England, if not in Europe. "It is chiefly composed of rocks of a pink, red, or grey colour, rich in silica, and deficient or wanting in iron, lime, and magnesia. This rock, so far from being disruptive, was deposited in beds not only before the Caradoc period, but long anterior to the much older Cambrian strata. Mr. Allport has shown, by both chemical and microscopic analysis, that the rocks of the Wrekin are identical with the modern ejectments of volcanoes. Certain changes have taken place during the lapse of ages by the action of infiltrated atmospheric waters, but it cannot be doubted that originally the volcanic rocks of the Wrekin were essentially the same in composition and in mode of formation as the materials of modern volcanoes. The Wrekin is chiefly composed of a great bedded series consisting of alternations of felstones (felspathic lavas) and felspathic tuffs. At the N.E. end are beds of volcanic breccia alternating with fine-grained ashes. Underlying these are pink and white felstones, displaying a distinct banded structure, due, it is supposed, to the

flowing motion of the rock in its original form as molten lava. Towards the summit of the mountain we come again to a hard pink breccia: and at the summit the rock is a compact purple felstone. On the S.W. flank of the hill is another exposure of tuff." —*Callaway.* A number of rare plants have been noted on the Wrekin and in the bogs at its base.

Leaving Wellington the Great Western Rly. line turns off from the main line to the rt. soon after leaving the stat., and passes l. the village of **Admaston**, where there are two springs, chalybeate and sulphur, which have a local reputation for the cure of rheumatism. On rt. is *Apley Castle* (*ante*), (Col. Sir Thos. Meyrick, Bart.) 3 m. rt. is the village of **Eyton**, the ch. of which contains some good stained glass and monuments to the memory of the Eyton family. *The Hall* (T. R. S. Eyton, Esq.)

The line now crosses the Shrewsbury and Stafford Canal, and enters the valley of the Tern at 5 m. **Crudgington** *Stat.* The country is pastoral and pretty, but contains no special feature of interest. At **Kinnersley** (3½ m. rt.) was buried Dr. John Bridgman, Bp. of Chester, 1619–52, and father of Sir Orlando Bridgman, Lord Chief Baron and Chief Justice. The Bp. was expelled at the abolition of episcopacy under the Commonwealth, and his palace and furniture sold for 1,059*l.* At **Rowton**, near High Ercall (2 m. l.), was born Richard Baxter, the Nonconformist, in 1615. 9 m. *Peplow Hall* (F. Stanier, Esq.)

12 m. **Hodnet** *Stat.*, the nearest to Hawkstone Park, which, as it is usually visited from Wem, is described in Rte. 12. The wooded hills of Hopley and Bury Walls form a very pretty feature in the landscape to the l. of Hodnet. Near the ch.-yd. is a picturesque group of half-timbered houses, one of which is dated 1585. The *ch.*, restored in 1883, is a handsome building with a very massive octagonal W. tower, said to have been built for purposes of defence. It contains an excellent Norm. font, and some chained books on a desk. There is a slab to Bp. Heber, who was rector here for 15 years, and whose daughter married A. Heber Percy of Hodnet Hall; also a recumbent alabaster figure of her daughter. These are in the N. chapel. The chancel was originally the Vernon chapel, and contains the armour of a member of that family.

The ancient manor of Hodnet was held by the service of being "steward of the honour of Montgomery." The lords of Hodnet were bound to keep that fortress in repair. By the marriage of the heiress of the De Hodenets, it passed to the Vernons, then to the Hebers. "Saxton makes a park here, midway between Cheswardine and Wem: it was an ancient park, recognised as early as the year 1257, when it was held by the family who assumed their name from it."—*Shirley.* The present Hall (A. C. Heber Percy, Esq.) is a picturesque irregular building, embosomed in trees.

1½ m. rt. of Hodnet is **Stoke-upon-Tern**, the *ch.* of which, of Tudor date, contains a monument to Sir Reginald Corbet, Judge of the Common Pleas in the reign of Elizabeth. The following inscription is upon a pew:

"God prosper long ye kinge in this lande,
And grant that Papystrie never have ye upper hande."

5 m. to the S.E. of Hodnet is **Child's Ercall**, the *ch.* of which has an octagonal font, with the lower half of each angle bevelled. A little farther E. is **Hinstock**, formerly a great haunt of freebooters. The Barons of Wem used to exact toll from travellers for guarding passes in the neighbourhood. Passing rt. *Buntingsdale Hall* (J. Tayleur, Esq.), the rly. reaches

17 m. **Market Drayton Junct.** with the Silverdale and Stoke-upon-Trent Rly. The town of **MARKET DRAYTON** ✠ is a quiet little place, close to the

Staffordshire border, dependent on the neighbouring agricultural population, a paper manufactory, and one of horsehair seating. But it can boast of considerable antiquity, being mentioned in Domesday Book as Draitune, the Manor of which was possessed by the Abbot of St. Ebrulph, in Normandy, and after him by the Abbot of Combermere. The grammar school was founded by Sir Rowland Hill, Lord Mayor of London in the reign of Mary. There are some good half-timbered houses with quaint carvings. The *ch.* has been restored, and consists of a nave, aisles, chancel, and square tower with buttresses and pinnacles. The W. door is Norm. In the neighbourhood are many pretty seats, such as *Styche* (Lady Mary Herbert), *Pellwall* (W. L. Chew, Esq.), *Tunstall* (Mrs. Broughton), and *Peatswood* (F. R. Twemlow, Esq.)

Excursions :—

(*a*) To **Audley Cross**, situated 3 m. on the Stafford Road on *Blore Heath.* Here was fought the famous battle, in 1459, between the factions of Lancaster and York, when Lord Audley and a number of the Cheshire gentry, who fought on King Henry's side, were killed. Drayton thus speaks of it : The Earl Neville, Earl of Salisbury,

"As hungry in revenge, there made a ravenous spoil :
There Dutton Dutton kills ; a Done doth kill a Done ;
A Booth a Booth,—and Leigh by Leigh is overthrown.
A Venables against a Venables doth stand ;
A Troutbeck fighteth with a Troutbeck hand to hand ;
There Molineux doth make a Molineux to die,
And Egerton the strength of Egerton doth try."

Polyolb. Song 22, vv. 620–8.

Audley Cross is supposed to mark the place where Lord Audley fell. It is said that Margaret of Anjou witnessed the fight from the tower of Mucklestone ch., 1½ m. to the N.

(*b*) To **Whitchurch** by **Moreton Say** and **Ightfield.** **Moreton Say** (2½ m.) The *ch.* was rebuilt in brick in 1783, but retains the Norm. tower doorway. It contains the tomb of Lord Clive, to whose memory there is a tablet ; a recumbent effigy of Jane, daughter of Sir T. Vernon (ob. 1623), between those of her 2 husbands ; and a carved and coloured wooden tablet to the 3 daughters of Sir T. and Dorothy Vernon, dated 1624.

5 m. on rt. *Cloverley Hall* (A. P. Heywood Lonsdale, Esq.), and near it a *ch.* built in memory of John Pemberton Heywood, formerly of Cloverley Hall.

7 m. **Ightfield.** In the *ch.* are 2 good brasses : (1) to W. Mainwaring, 1498, the head restored ; (2) to Dame Margaret Evelyn, daughter of William Mainwaring of Ightfield Hall, and afterwards wife of Philip Egerton, Esq. (14—), with children, under tabernacle work. *Ightfield Hall.*

10 m. **Whitchurch** (p. 82).

From Market Drayton the line proceeds to

21 m. **Adderley** *Stat.* To the l. is *Adderley Hall* (H. R. Corbet, Esq.) the park of which was enclosed by Walter de Dunstanville, by agreement with the Abbot of Shrewsbury, between 1175 and 1190. *Cloverley* and *Shavington* are seats of A. P. Heywood Lonsdale, Esq. In the grounds of both places there are some remarkably fine sheets of water. **Shavington** ch. has nave with aisles, chancel, transept and a chapel used as a mausoleum for the Kilmorey family. The interior contains monuments to the Needhams. A little before reaching

23½ m. **Audlem** *Stat.* the rly. enters Cheshire, and runs through a flat well-cultivated district, passing rt. *Coole Pilate, Hankelow, Batherton,* and *Austerton Halls,* now all farmhouses, to

29 m. **Nantwich Junct.** (Rte. 12). By this line, therefore, the traveller has a through route from Worcester and Wolverhampton to Crewe and Manchester.

PLAN OF SHREWSBURY

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London. John Murray, Albemarle Street

ROUTE 8.

FROM SHREWSBURY TO STAFFORD BY WELLINGTON AND NEWPORT.

Rail.	Road.	Places.
		Shrewsbury
	4 m.	Atcham
	5 m.	Wroxeter
		Shrewsbury
	3 m.	Battlefield
	6 m.	Haughmond
	8½ m.	Upton Stat.
		Shrewsbury
3 m.		Condover Stat.
	1½ m.	,, Village
	4 m.	Pitchford
	5 m.	Acton Burnell
	10½ m.	Hughley
		Shrewsbury
8 m.		Pontesbury
		Walk.
	abt. 13 m.	to Stiperstones and Minsterley Stat.
		Shrewsbury
10 m.		Minsterley
	abt. 13 m.	to Stapeley Hill and Lydham Heath Stat.
		Shrewsbury
	3½ m.	Upton Magna
	6½ m.	Walcott
	11½ m.	Hadley
	14 m.	Donnington
	18 m.	Newport

SHREWSBURY ☆ (pop. 27,967) is the capital of Shropshire, and a borough town sending one member to Parliament.

The antiquity of Shrewsbury is considerable, and its British name (Pen-gwern, "the head of the Alderwood") indicates its position above the fertile meadowlands, which were then covered with trees and bushes. Its Saxon name, "Scrobesbyrig," is evidently of the same derivation. Fortified by a diversion of the Severn, which probably was a work of Cyndelan (Cyndelan Powis porphar, "the purple-bearer of Powis," as the noble bard Llywarc Hên calls him), it was the capital of the Powis princes between the destruction of Uriconium or Wroxeter, Roxcester (Leland), and the time of King Offa. After the Norm. Conquest it was the earldom of Roger de Montgomery, by whom the castle, commanding the only land approach to the town, was erected. The Parliament which passed the Statute of Acton Burnell (Rte. 8) was summoned here in the time of Edward I. It subsequently removed to Acton Burnell (see p. 66) with the King and his court. And here, to the Parliament adjourned from Westminster, came "old John of Gaunt, time-honoured Lancaster," and Henry of Hereford, his "bad son"—

"Here to make good the boistrous late appeal
Against the Duke of Norfolk, Thomas Mowbray."

In 1403 the battle between the forces of the same Henry of Hereford, the King of England, and those of Hotspur and his confederates, took place on the plain, about 3 m. distant, under the skirts of Haughmond Hill. The spot is still called Battlefield, and the ch. bears the same appellation. The battle was a desperate one. Hotspur had called for his favourite sword, and on being told that it had been left behind at the place where he had spent the previous night, the village of Berwick namely, he turned pale and said, "Then has my plough reached its last furrow." He had been told by a soothsayer that he would die at Berwick, but he had supposed that it was Berwick-on-Tweed. The battle resolved itself into a hand-to-hand fight. Hotspur supposed that he had slain the King, but he really killed another man dressed in the King's armour. Shakespeare's story of Falstaff pretending that he had killed Hotspur is well known. Hotspur's body was brought to Shrewsbury, rubbed in salt, placed between two millstones at the side of the pillory, and then cut in pieces, different portions being sent to different cities.

Henry, Earl of Richmond, was, it is said, first proclaimed king on entering Shrewsbury, where he spent some time and recruited his army prior to the battle of Bosworth Field, subsequently visiting the town on several occasions. The pestilence called the "sweating sickness," so terrible in the 16th cent., broke out first, according to tradition, in this town. In 1642 Charles I. took up for a time his residence with the Princes Rupert and Maurice at the Council House, and it was at this time that Cadogan's Fort was erected on the mount above Frankwell.

In the early part of 1644 the town was captured by treachery by the Parliamentarian forces under Colonel Mytton.

Shrewsbury is a corporate town, possessing various ancient charters from the time of William I. to James II., and continues to give the title of Earl to the lineal descendants of the great John Talbot, who was brought from the field of Chastellon to be buried at Whitchurch (Rte. 12). Here, at the Raven, Farquhar wrote "The Recruiting Officer," Telford, the great engineer, lived, and Charles Darwin was born.

Shrewsbury is situated on a peninsula of rising ground, encircled by the Severn on all sides but the N., and locally termed "the Island:" in fact, so nearly do the windings of the river approach each other, that

the isthmus is only 300 yds. in breadth:

"Edita Penguerni late fastigia splendent,
Urbs sita lunato veluti mediamnis in orbe,
Colle tumet modico, duplici quoque ponte superbit,
Accipiens patriâ sibi linguâ nomen ab alnis."

The main approaches are by 2 **bridges**, on the E. and N.W., called respectively the English and Welsh bridges. The former, erected in 1769 at a cost of 15,000*l.*, is a handsome structure of 7 arches, surmounted by an open balustrade, though the elevation is remarkable from the height of the central arch, which was constructed thus to allow of the great volume of water brought down in rainy weather. On the keystones of either side are heads of Sabrina and Neptune. The *Welsh* Bridge, across which runs the "reddie waye" to Wales, has little remarkable in its architecture, but replaces an old one pulled down in the last cent. On it was a picturesque gateway-tower, of which many engravings are still extant. At the suburb of Coleham the Severn is joined by the *Meole Brook*, of which Drayton says:

"Mele her great mistress next at Shrewsbury doth meet,
To see with what a grace she that faire towne doth greet."
Polyolb. Song viii. 445–6.

The **Castle** stands on the isthmus, and is conspicuous from its lofty position, "builte in such a brave plott that it could have espyed a byrd flying in every strete," and from the deep red colour of the buildings, though its architecture, except in some of the walls, is considerably modernised. The square keep, with the round corner turrets (temp. Edward I.), part of the walls of the inner bailey, an inner Norm. arch, and the postern gate are all that are left of the ancient portion. It contains nothing remarkable but the turret in the garden that overlooks the river, and first meets the eye of the stranger as he arrives at the stat. This was the work of Telford for Sir W. Pulteney, his early patron, the former proprietor of the place. In the garden below, Capt. Benbow was shot in 1651 by Cromwell's orders for his desertion of the Parliamentary cause. Here also it was customary for many years for the knights of the shire to be girt with their swords by the sheriff after their election, a custom now discontinued. The castle walls can be well seen by ascending some steps known as *The Dana*, near the stat.

The prospect from the castle is magnificent, embracing the blue ridges of the Norman Mons-gilberti, the Saxon and English Wrekin, in which the name of Vr-ikon, "City of Iconium," whose remains lie beneath its slopes, is virtually enshrined—the South Shropshire hills, along whose valleys and sides went the tide of the last battle of Caractacus—the beautiful Breidden, surmounted by a pillar in honour of Lord Rodney's victory—the Berwyns and the Welsh ranges in long terraces to the W. Nearer home, to the N. and E., are the more modest eminences of Grinshill, Hawkstone, and Haughmond, rising from a rich and well-watered country, which rivalled Yorkshire, till within the last few years, in the excellence of its horses.

The **Town Walls** were first commenced by Roger Belesme, son of Earl Roger de Montgomery, and afterwards finished by Henry III. to protect the inhabitants from the incursions of the Welsh. A small portion of them only remains on the S. side of the town, where they are in good preservation, and form an agreeable promenade. Here also is a square *tower* of 3 stories, of the same date, the only one remaining out of 20 that formerly strengthened and defended the walls. The fortifications were for the most part destroyed in 1645, when the town yielded to the Parliamentary troops.

The **churches** are interesting, and particularly that of **St. Mary**,* a noble pile of building in the centre of the town, whose lofty spire (220 ft.) serves

as a landmark for many a mile around. During the restoration, foundations of an older structure were found extending the whole length of the nave. It is a cruciform ch. of various styles of architecture, and contains a nave, side aisles, chancel, transepts, and 2 chantry chapels. The basement of the tower is Norm., as are also the S. and N. porches of the nave and the doorways of the N. and S. transepts, which are ornamented with lozenge and chevron mouldings. Over the S. porch is a parvise used as a muniment room. The E. Eng. style is visible in the beautiful lancet windows of the transepts. Those of the clerestory are Perp., as are also the pointed windows in the S. chapel, and the large one of 8 lights at the end of the chancel. The spire is octagonal, and said to be the third highest in the kingdom. Internally, Norm. semicircular arches separate the nave from the aisles, springing from elegant clustered columns of later date, as is not uncommon in 13th-cent. work. Similar arches lead from the aisles to the transepts, and also to the chapels. The ceiling is oak, beautifully fretted and carved with flowers and figures; indeed it is one of the finest examples in England. In the nave is a Dec. pulpit of Caen stone, representing incidents in the Life of Christ—viz. The Sermon on the Mount, the Nativity, Crucifixion, and Ascension. The niches have figures of St. John, St. Peter, and St. Paul. One of the chief beauties of the ch. arises from the profusion of the **stained glass.** The large E. Jesse *window* once belonged to old St. Chad's. The patriarch is reclining in sleep, while from his loins a stem ascends, enclosing in its branches a king or prophet belonging to the series, which numbers altogether 47 figures. At the base on rt. are figures of Sir Owen de Charleton, Sir John, his brother, and Sir John, their common ancestor, Edward III., and Lady Hawys Gadarn, heiress of Powis, 1291, the wife of Sir John de Charleton. In the N. wall of the chancel is a fine triple lancet window containing scenes from the life of St. Bernard of Clairvaux. This glass originally belonged to the Abbey of Altenburg, whence it was removed to the ch. of St. Severin of Cologne, where it was purchased by the Rev. W. G. Rowlands. As there was not room in these windows for the series, part of the glass was placed in the centre window of the S. aisle of the nave. A full account of the subjects treated is given in Mr. Poyntz's little work, "Seventeen Scenes from the Life of St. Bernard."

The nave windows contain much German and Flemish glass collected by the Rev. G. Rowlands, M.A., vicar of the *ch.* 1825–50, to whom there is a monument and window in the S. transept. Of this foreign glass there will be noticed in the centre window S. a Crucifixion (rt. base), St. Peter and the Circumcision (l. base), which do not belong to the St. Bernard series. The W. window on the N. side of the nave is Flemish and contains an inscription commemorating its gift by Mr. Rowlands. The E. window of the N. transept contains a set of Dutch grisailles, figuring the history of Tobit. There are other grisailles in the muniment room. In the **Trinity chapel**, on the S. side, is some foreign glass, considerably restored, containing figures of the Count and Countess of Horn.

The following **monuments** should be noted: (1) In Trinity chapel a mutilated cross-legged knight on an altar-tomb of the 14th cent., supposed to be the effigy of one of the Leybornes, Lords of Berwick. (2) In the N. chapel an incised slab to Nicholas Stafford and his wife, dated 1463. (3) In the same chapel is one by *Thomas*, to Admiral Benbow, a native of Shrewsbury, who died in Jamaica of wounds received in an engagement with the French off Cartagena, 1702. (4) In the basement of the tower a monument in marble to Dr. Butler, head master of Shrewsbury School, and afterwards

Bp. of Lichfield. It is from designs by *Chantrey*, but the work was executed by *Baily*, in consequence of the death of the former. (5) In the same place a monument of Caen stone, by *Westmacott*, to Adjt.-General Cureton, who fell in an engagement with the Sikhs, 1848.

In the tower-arch is a carved oak screen, to the memory of Rev. J. O. Hopkins. The town records show how much this church has suffered at the hands of desecrators, as the following extracts prove:

"4 Eliz. 1562. Paid for taking down the rood 0 2 0

"Paid for pulling down the chapels and altars 0 1 10

"1584 May 12. Order'd that 3 superstitious images and inscriptions in the North window of the church be taken down by the churchwardens.

"1584 Sep. 18. Order'd that the stone altar be removed having been sometimes used to idolatry and the stones applied to the use of the parish."

The **Vicarage**, a half-timbered house, stands near the E. end of the ch. The vicars of St. Mary formerly possessed the advantage of being exempt from episcopal jurisdiction. At the suppression of the collegiate ch., its revenues were given by Edward VI. to the maintenance of Shrewsbury School.

A short distance to the S. is **St. Alkmund's Church**, also collegiate, and said to have been founded in 912 by Æthelfleda, daughter of Alfred the Great. It was once a venerable cruciform ch., but was mutilated in 1794, leaving only the tower and the graceful spire. The remainder of the building is in the churchwarden's style, or "modern Gothic," of the last cent. At the E. end is a window, by *Egginton*—subject, "Emblematical Faith."

Almost immediately adjoining St. Alkmund's is the site of the ancient Norm. ch. of **St. Julian's**. It was demolished in 1750, and the present structure erected, though considerably altered in 1846. The most ancient portion of the ch. is the basement of the tower, the main body being also in the churchwarden's style, an oblong building of brick, with stone dressings. In the interior is a gravestone with an inscription of the 13th cent. on its rounded edge, in memory of Edward Troumwyn, a member of a family living in the time of Edward II. There is also a monument to Archdeacon Owen, the historian of Shrewsbury, and an E. window by *Evans*—subject, the Transfiguration.

Old St. Chad's, situated near the town walls, was originally founded about 780 by one of the Mercian kings, on the site of a palace of a Prince of Powis, and is said to have been a very fine building of the reign of Henry III. It was much damaged by fire in 1293, and finally gave way in 1788, in consequence of some of the pillars yielding. The former catastrophe was owing to a plumber working in the ch., the record of the inquest upon him stating that while endeavouring to flee the conflagration he had caused, "contra voluntatem suam demissus fuit in quodam stagno fluminis Sabrinæ et sic mortuus fuit." The small portion which remains was almost entirely rebuilt in 1571, and is now used as a chapel for the cemetery, which contains the graves of some of the most distinguished Salopian families, such as the Corbets, Burtons, Owens, &c. Sir Rowland Lee, Bp. of Lichfield, and President of the Marches, 1543, is buried here; also Captain Benbow, who was shot beneath the castle.

New St. Chad's, some distance to the W., built 1792, is chiefly remarkable for its situation at the head of the Quarry, and for the execrable taste of its architectural details. The body of the ch. is formed by the intersection of 2 circles, at the E. end of which is a Doric portico and tower, the sole feature which prevents the building being taken for a theatre or exchange. Over the altar is a copy of Rubens's Descent from the Cross, with the

Visitation and the Presentation in the Temple on either side. The other windows represent the Raising of Lazarus, Christ healing the Sick, Christ blessing little Children, and the Tribute Money. These windows, with that in St. Alkmund's, may be examined with interest, as examples of stained-glass windows in the first half of the 19th cent.

Across the English Bridge, and on the other side of the Hereford Rly., is the venerable **Abbey Church**,* built of a deep red stone, and in interest and beauty scarcely surpassed by St. Mary's. It was formerly a large cruciform ch., having a central as well as the present W. tower, but the E. portion was destroyed at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries, while part of the clerestory fell at a subsequent date. The basement of the tower is Norm., the remainder being Dec., and adorned with a magnificent Dec. window, surmounted by a rich crocket and finial. Above it and between the two belltower windows is a niche containing the statue of a mailed knight, supposed to represent Edward III. On the N. side is a porch of 2 stories, with mullioned windows, nearly flat-arched. A great deal of judicious restoration has taken place in the ch., particularly at the E. end and in the S. aisle. "The choir having been destroyed, the eastern end now terminates in a wall run up between the remains of the two western piers that supported the central tower." The nave is separated from the side aisles by 5 arches, 2 of which, adjoining the tower, are E. Eng., while the others are Norm., with very thick round pillars, and it is evident that a course of smaller arches was intended to have been carried above them. The tower is divided from the nave by a lofty pointed arch, 52 ft. in height, and, by the removal of the organ gallery and screen, the whole W. window is displayed. It is very fine, and is filled with armorial bearings of kings, nobles, and members of old Shropshire families—amongst them the Dukes of Gloucester, Lancaster, and York; Earls of March, Chester, Suffolk, Surrey, &c. The E. window is by *Evans*. Above the altar is a triptych designed by Pearson and executed by Clayton and Bell. In the second bay of the nave from the W., and on the N. side, are the remains of the shrine of St. Winefride, whose relics were translated here from Holywell in 1136.

Monuments. In the S. aisle are a mutilated effigy, on a basement of E. Pointed arches, supposed to be that of Roger de Montgomery, the founder of the abbey, who died as a monk of his own foundation in 1094—he was second in command to William the Conqueror at Hastings; a cross-legged knight in mail, supposed to be Sir Walter de Dunstanville, circa 1196; and opposite to this the tomb of a priest, with chalice, around which is inscribed T.M.O.R.E.V.F. (*i.e.* T. More, Vicar 1402–25).

At the W. end of the N. aisle are 3 altar-tombs, that on the rt. of Alderman William Jones and wife, 1612 and 1623, brought from St. Alkmund's; in the centre R. Onslow, Speaker of the House of Commons, ob. 1571, from St. Chad's. This tomb was repaired in 1742 by Arthur Onslow, Speaker of the House, a descendant of this Richard, who was also the ancestor of Sir Richard Onslow, Bart., Speaker in the reign of Queen Anne, and afterwards Lord Onslow. On the l. is an alabaster tomb to Sir William Charlton and wife (1524), brought from Wellington and mentioned by Dugdale.

The **Monastic Remains**, at one time extensive, have nearly disappeared in the course of modern improvements. The Chapter House, which formerly stood to the S. of the ch., was celebrated as the house of assembly for the first English Parliament in 1283. There are some remains in a malthouse (S.W. of the Abbey) of what was probably the infirmary and chapel, and the Abbey House is supposed to have been the Hospitium or Guest Hall. In a yard overlooking

the street, which was once the refectory, is a **stone pulpit** placed on the wall, and used for the purpose of reading while the brethren were at meals. It contains 6 Dec. arches partly filled in by panels, on which are sculptured figures of St. Peter and St. Paul, &c.

The ch. of **St. Giles**, the oldest in Shrewsbury, was built early in the reign of Henry I. for the use of a Leper Hospital. It stands on the Acton Burnell road, and has been almost completely renovated. It contains a good Norm. font, with zigzag and chevron mouldings, which was brought from High Ercall ch., and some old glass in a window by the pulpit and in a lancet in the chancel.

The remaining churches are modern. **St. Michael's** has stained glass, representing the Nativity, the Annunciation, and the Presentation, the two latter copies from Guido and Rubens; and **Trinity** has the Crucifixion, after Vandyck.

The **Roman Catholic Cathedral** on the town walls, a handsome building (E. W. Pugin, archt.), erected 1856 at the expense of the Earl of Shrewsbury, contains a well-carved pulpit and some good modern glass. The **Museum** and **Free Library** occupy the buildings formerly used for the school. The original building was of wood, but was replaced by the present structure, which occupies two sides of a quadrangle. Its principal features are a pinnacled tower, flanked on one side by what was the schoolroom and on the other by the former chapel and library.

The **Museum** * (closed during August) contains a very interesting series of objects discovered at Uriconium, which should be visited after that spot has been explored; also a fine collection of coins, fossils, and other objects relating to Shropshire.

Shrewsbury School, now situated on the opposite side of the river, was founded in 1551 by Edward VI., since whose time many persons of eminence have received their education there. Marmaduke Rawdon of Yorke (17th cent.) says of it—"Itt haith a faire free schoole of which thir are fowr maisters and thir are sometimes six hundred schollers, and a hansome library thirunto belonginge." Amongst many well-known alumni may be mentioned Sir Philip Sidney, Judge Jefferies, Charles Darwin, Sir William Jenner, Archbp. Thomson, Bp. Fraser, Professors Munro, Paley, Mayer, and Kennedy. It is with the name of Dr. Butler and his immediate successor, Dr. Kennedy, the Cambridge Regius Professor of Greek, that Shrewsbury School is most associated in later times, for it was to their successive learning and talent that it became indebted for its position as an educational establishment.

A little above the museum, and on the opposite side of the road, is a Presbyterian ch. on the site of *St. Nicholas Chapel*, formerly erected by Roger de Montgomery as one of 8 chapels for such of his retainers as lived outside the castle court. Just beyond is a fine half-timbered gateway, dated 1620 on the inner face, leading into a courtyard. This is known as the **Council House**, or Lord's Place, and is now converted into private residences. Here Charles I., with his nephew Prince Rupert, took up their quarters when on a visit to Shrewsbury, as also did the unhappy James II., in 1687. The entrance hall is still preserved nearly in its original condition. It received its name from having been the hall of the Court of the Marches of Wales, which held its meetings alternately here, at Ludlow, and at Hereford. Shrewsbury is rich in ancient **HOUSES**, according to Lydgate—

> "So equally of tymbre and of stone
> Here houses were raised everich on."

Ireland's Mansion is a half-timbered gabled building at the corner of the High Street and the bottom of Pride Hill. On the beams of the gables

are the armorial bearings of the family of Ireland, which flourished at Albrighton. Opposite, above a shop occupied by Messrs. Maddox, is **Owen's House.** A stone found during the alterations and placed over the doorway bears the inscription, "Erected by Richard Owen, the Elder, Gentleman, Ano Dni 1592." A similar date is placed on the gable. A row of timber houses of the 15th cent. still stands in **Butcher's Row**, leading out of Pride Hill. The dwellings of the chantry priests of the Holy Cross at St. Alkmund's and the town house of the Abbot of Lilleshall are believed to have been situated here. The houses have been altered, but were considered by Mr. Parker to be the most perfect specimens of old shops in England. **Lloyd's House** (now Della Porta's shop), at the corner of the Market Square, is dated 1570 in the gable. **Jones' Mansion** in Church Street, where the Duke of York and Prince Rupert once resided, is much altered, but retains some traces of carving. The **Drapers' Hall**, near St. Mary's Church in St. Mary's Place, now (1895) undergoing restoration, possesses a fine old wainscoted room and a portrait supposed to be that of Degory Watur and his wife, the founders of the almshouses. **Vaughan's Place** (in College Hill, behind the museum), of which a portion of the interior, erected in the 14th cent. by Sir Harris Vaughan, is in good preservation, and contains a fine old chestnut roof. **Rowley's Mansion**, in Hill's Lane off Mardol, retains many of its ancient characteristics. It was built by William Rowley, draper, burgess, and alderman, and was, during the residence of Mr. Hill, who married his granddaughter, the scene of much Shropshire old-fashioned hospitality. And across the river, out of the Abbey Foregate, is **Whitehall**, an Elizabethan stone mansion of the same date, standing, according to *Churchyard*, the Shropshire poet—

> "So trim and finely that it graceth
> All the soil that it is on."

It is a very fine specimen of its period and well worth visiting. In a house in the Wyle Cop, now a fishmonger's, Harry Richmond, soon to be Henry VII., stopped on his way to Bosworth Field.

Nearly opposite St. Mary's ch. the Post Office occupies the site of the **Butter Market**, close to which once stood the *High Cross*, where Dafydd ap Gruffydd, brother to Llewelyn, met his fate by hanging, burning, and quartering, after being dragged at a horse's tail through the streets. This was the prince whose revolt against King Edward met with the furious and almost rhythmical denunciation :

> "Quem nutrivimus orphanum
> Quem recepimus exulem," &c.

At the bottom of Pride Hill is the new **Corn Exchange and Market**, a very fine building erected in 1869, at a cost of 40,000*l.* From the centre springs a lofty campanile tower.

The **Market Square** contains Assize Courts and County Hall, Music and Assembly Rooms, and an ancient **Market House**,* erected 1596, an interesting building with an open arcade and square mullioned windows. Over the W. front are the arms of Queen Elizabeth, and over the N. arch is a statue in armour of Richard Duke of York, which formerly graced the old tower on the Welsh Bridge, but was removed in 1791, when the new bridge was built. Over the S. arch is an angel bearing the arms of England and France, which was formerly placed over the outer gate of the castle. A prominent object in the square is the **Statue of Lord Clive**, a full-length bronze figure by Marochetti, on a pedestal of polished granite. Clive, considered the founder of an empire that was extended and upheld afterwards by greater men, invested a large portion of his Indian gains in land and politics in the county of Salop; he represented the town 3 times in Parliament, and was elected Mayor in 1762. His naïve declaration

(stripped of its expletives) in the House of Commons, when defending himself against the accusation of laying the native princes under contribution, "I wonder, Mr. Speaker, that I did not take more," will often occur to those who pass by the sombre effigy of this remarkable man, whose mouth bespeaks an iron purpose, and whose family now bear the title of Earls of Powis.

Lord Hill's monument, in the London road, commemorates another Shropshire hero—the hero of Douro, Talavera, Vittoria, Waterloo, and many other battles—who concluded his victorious and honourable life by several years' service as Commander-in-Chief of the British Army. The column, of Grecian-Doric style, and 133 ft. high, was erected at a cost of nearly 6,000*l.* in 1816, and is surmounted by a statue of Lord Hill. It is worth while ascending to the balcony at the summit for the sake of the view.

Other points worth notice in the town are the **Infirmary**, a plain but conveniently arranged Grecian building, the front of which overlooks the windings of the Severn. The **Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital** is a handsome building in red brick and terra-cotta near the town walls and quarry. The **Drapers' Almshouses**, founded in 1461 by Degory Watur, who, it is recorded, used to attend with the ministers "dailye in our Ladye's church, and kneel with them in a long pew in the guise made for them and himself." The **Holy Cross Hospital**, a modern Tudor building for the reception of parish residents stricken in years. **Millington's Hospital**, in the suburb of Frankwell, for the maintenance and education of 50 boys and girls. The County Gaol, a massive brick building close to the stat.

The visitor should not omit the **Quarry**,* a park with public walks of a beauty and extent that few towns can boast. It is bounded on the S. by the Severn (here crossed by a ferry), and lined by avenues of thick-foliaged lime-trees. At the end of the central avenue is a cast in lead, made at Rome, of the Farnese Hercules.

The **Welsh Bridge**, built in 1795, formerly possessed an embattled tower (destroyed 1770), of which pictures can be seen in the museum. Crossing it, Frankwell is reached. This was formerly the Welsh part of the town, and contains a number of interesting half-timbered buildings. On the high ground at the end of the street is a large house, the **Mount**, occupying the site where Cadogan's Fort, built by Lord Capel (temp. Charles I.), formerly stood. Here, in 1809, was born Charles Darwin.

$1\frac{3}{4}$ m. from Shrewsbury, at the point where the Oswestry road diverges, stands the shell of what was once a magnificent oak, known as **Glyndwr's Oak**, from a tradition that he climbed up it to witness the issue of the battle of Shrewsbury. The tree is situate on high ground on the rt. bank of the river, and from its branches Glendower might have seen the royal standard floating in the breeze on Shrewsbury Castle.

Like Coventry and Preston, Shrewsbury long retained the glories of its *Show*, or pageant, held every year on the Monday after first Sunday in Trinity, when the associated tradesmen, in gay attire, paraded through the town to the suburb of Kingsland, where arbours were erected, one for each guild. Here they spent the rest of the day in festivity. Formerly these proceedings were accompanied by dramatic representations. "This yeare, 1568, at Whytsuntyde, was a notable stage playe played at Shrewsbury, the which was praysed greately, and the chyffe actor thereof was one Master Aston, being the heade scoole master at the Free Scoole there."—*MS. Account of the Reception, by Sir H. Sidney, at the Free School.*

Amongst **natives** of Shrewsbury may be mentioned Robert of Shrewsbury, Bp. of Bangor, who by his own desire was buried in the Shrews-

bury marketplace, 1213; Thomas Churchyard, the poet, 1587; Admiral Benbow, 1650; John Thomas, Bp. of Salisbury, 1761; Job Orton, an eminent Nonconformist; Hugh Farmer, a noted Nonconformist preacher; Taylor, the translator of Demosthenes, 1704; and Charles Darwin.

A striking peculiarity of the **streets** of Shrewsbury is the retention of so many quaint and ancient names, such as Murivance, Pride Hill, Mardol, Shoplatch, Wyle Cop, &c.

"Your trunk thus dismantled and torn,
Bloudie Jack,
They hew, and they hack, and they chop:
And to finish the whole
They stuck up a pole
In the place that 's still called the Wylde Coppe."—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

These names offer curious corruptions of appellations that were once appropriate: Wyle Cop—Hill Top, it being a steep ascent from the river; Dog Pole—Duck Pool, in the hollow near St. Mary's; Mardol or Mardepol—Dairy Fold or Grazing Ground; Pride Hill, from an ancient family residing there; Shoplatch, called in a rental of Henry III. Soet (= sweet) Place, the seat of an old Salop family; Murivance, an open space in front of the walls, &c.

The visitor should not omit to pay attention to the famous *cakes*, *ale*, and *brawn*, the former of which, in particular, have been in request since the days of Queen Elizabeth.

The Shrewsbury cake is spoken of by Shenstone:

"For here each season do their cakes abide,
Whose honoured name the inventive city owns,
Rendering through Britain's Isle Salopia's praises known."

It is also mentioned in the "Ingoldsby Legends,"

"She has given him a roll and a bun
And a Shrewsbury cake, of Palin's own make."

The Simnel cake is of different material, a quasi-mincemeat, surrounded by a tough, saffron, uneatable paste; and it is a local institution of Shrewsbury and Ludlow, especially in Mid-Lent,

"I 'll to thee a Simnel bring
'Gainst thou goest a mothering."
Herrick.

The trade of Shrewsbury is now very insignificant, although it was once the great mart for Welshpool and Newtown flannels. It still possesses a flax-spinning factory, and has one or two iron foundries.

The neighbourhood of Shrewsbury abounds in pleasant and beautiful seats, most of which are alluded to in their respective routes. The principal of these are *Sundorne Castle* (A. E. Perkins, Esq.), *Attingham* (Lord Berwick), *Longner Hall* (J. L. Burton, Esq.), *Berwick Hall* (Mrs. Watson), *Ross Hall*, *Lythwood Hall*, &c.

Excursions :—

(*a*) To **Atcham** and **Wroxeter.**

The English Bridge should be crossed, and, leaving the Abbey on the l., the Watling Street should be followed past Lord Hill's column. The Watling Street was one of the 4 national highways, the *Quatuor chimini* of the Norm. laws, which were for centuries placed under the "King's Peace" and guarded by special laws from injury. It "represents the old zigzag route from Kent to Chester and York, and northwards in two branches to Carlisle and the neighbourhood of Newcastle. It forms the boundary between Warwickshire and Leicestershire; it was the line of division chosen in Alfred's treaty with Guthrun, the Danes keeping all the country north of 'Wathlinga-strete;' the monastic records show that the Priory of Lilleshall in Shropshire was situate, 'prope altam viam vocatam Watling Street.'"—*Elton.* Under the name of the Holyhead road in Shropshire, it remains a monument of Telford's engineering genius.

2 m. **Weeping Cross** is situated ½ m. to rt., up a narrow lane. It is so called because the bodies of the dead were set down there after the battle of Shrewsbury. The name is borne by two other places only—one near

Stafford, on the Walsall road; the other at Banbury, in Oxfordshire.

"He that goes out will often lose,
At length coming back by Weeping Crosse,"

is an ancient proverb. Montaigne (Florio's transl., bk. iii. ch. 5) says: "Few men have wedded their sweethearts, their paramours, or mistresses, but have come home by Weeping Crosse, and ere long repented of their bargain."

4 m. the Severn is crossed by an open balustraded bridge. Immediately beyond this on l. is the classical gateway to **Attingham Hall** (Lord Berwick). The house, also in the classical style, possesses a picture gallery in which is a fine portrait of Raphael as a young man, by himself; also other pictures by Romney, Lawrence, Reynolds, Hoppner, and Angelica Kaufmann. Opposite to the gateway is **Atcham Church**, charmingly situated by the side of the river. The lower portion of the tower is Norm., and in it and other parts of the ch. may be recognised carved stones which have come from Uriconium. Amongst the list of incumbents of Atcham was Orderic the Priest, who in 1075 baptised and stood sponsor for Ordericus Vitalis, the historian and chaplain of William the Conqueror.

4½ m. the Tern is crossed. The first road to the rt. beyond this point should be taken, which leads to

5 m. **WROXETER**,* the Roman *Uriconium*, situated at the junction of the main Watling Street and of the smaller western way of the same name which here crossed the Severn.

As regards the name, Ptolemy's Geography gives Οὐιροκόνιον, and the Itinerary has, among others, the forms *viroconio*, *uiriconio* &c.; but when we take into account the modern name, and that of the neighbouring Wrekin, the preference must be given to *uriconio*, and the Celtic name must be regarded as having been *Vriconion*. It may have meant a spot where rods and saplings grew, while it should in Mod. Welsh be Gwrygon, which we doubtless have in *Caer Guricon* of Nennius. *Gwrygon* or *Guricon* appears to have originally been the name of the district in which that *caer* or town stood, and it has been pointed out to us that it is called *Urecon*, *i.e.* Wreconn, in a poem in the Red Book of Hengest.—*Rhys*. The city was founded about the reign of Trajan (as far as can be judged from a medal of that emperor, found in 1841, embedded in a wall), and probably by military colonists from the Asiatic part of the Roman empire.

We know that a division of Parthian horse was stationed here, guarding the communications of the Roman roads and the passes of the Severn. It was destroyed by the Saxons in the 6th cent., when Romanised Britons alone remained as its defenders, and probably in one of those irruptions so pathetically deplored by Llywarch Hên. Since that epoch the city has never revived, but has remained for cents. in ruins, mostly covered by the soil, and only visited at times by the builders of the Middle Ages, who seem to have used them extensively as a ready-made quarry, whence they might extract materials for the erection of the abbeys and churches in the neighbourhood.

The **Church** is a fine old Norm. building, with later alterations. The tower has decorated bands on the W. face, and in the upper stage are 2 niches, one on each side the window. At the gate of the ch.-yd. are 2 Roman pillars with highly ornamented capitals, discovered in the bed of the river, which flows close by. The massive font is also made of a hollowed-out Roman capital. There is a small Easter sepulchre with ball-flower decoration, containing remains of a fresco in its interior. There are also 3 remarkably fine altar-tombs, the best of which is to Sir Thos. Bramley and wife, dated 1555. He was Lord Chief Justice of England and executor to Henry VIII. The others are to J. Berkes and wife (1618) and Sir R. Newport and wife (1570). The remains of a portion of the ancient *fosse* can be plainly seen in a field nearly opposite the ch. The key of the enclosure in which the excavations of the ancient **Uriconium** have been made is kept at a smithy close by. "The area of the city was considerably larger than that of Pompeii, its walls being 3 m. in circuit, while those of Pompeii are less than 2 m., enclosing only 160 acres, while Uriconium had 223." The ruins consist of a massive wall about 70 ft. in length, of unmistakable Roman masonry—long string-courses of large flat red bricks—and known as the *Old Wall*, forming one side of a

parallelogram composed of a central area and 2 side aisles. "This was the Basilica, or Government Hall of the city, and attached to it on the E. is an enclosure 26 ft. by 60 ft., which may have been the chalcidicum, a room usually attached to basilicas. Along the N. side, on the line of the present road from Ironbridge to Shrewsbury, the remains of a Roman roadway have been found, a pavement of small rolled stones from the river occupying the central part, with a causeway on either side for foot-passengers, terminated by a kerbstone—the width of the road, including the roadway, being 18 ft." To the S. of the basilica is a series of courts and hypocausts, supposed by Mr. Wright to have been the public baths. In all the latter the connecting pillars or columns of Roman bricks, as well as the flues, are in high preservation, and afford a clear illustration of the method by which the Romans warmed their houses. In one of the hypocausts 3 skeletons were found, 2 of females and 1 of an old man, by whose side was a box of coins of the reigns of Tetricus, Valens, Constantinus, Julian, Helena, &c., thus showing the money in actual circulation at the time of the destruction of the city. These individuals had probably crept into the hypocaust to save themselves from the massacre and conflagration which constituted Uriconium's *summa dies*, and had there been suffocated. Other skulls were found near the spot where the Severn was crossed, and where the walls of a square water-tower were uncovered during the excavations. After the excavations and researches begun in Feb. 1859, portions of capitals, bases, column shafts, inscribed wall stucco (as at Pompeii) and pavements of rather fine but perishable mosaic were discovered, and the continuation of the Old Wall westward was traced to the lower parts of two doorways; and more recently 5 rooms, or ruins of them, have been discovered, which had barrelled roofs, to the S. of the "Old Wall." But for a full understanding of the importance of old Uriconium the tourist must visit it personally, and then with risk of disappointment, for the interest in this burnt and ruined city has ever had a tendency to fall asleep and, after all, the visible relics of it are to be found deposited in the museum at Shrewsbury, such as coins, fibulæ, hairpins (upwards of 30 varieties), combs, statues, nails, pottery, Samian ware, glass, charcoal, grains of wheat, bones, and even a bottle of patent eye-water, with the stamp of the nostrum vendor who had concocted it, as at Lydney.

From Wroxeter it is about 2½ m. to Upton Magna Stat. on the L. and N.-W. and G.W. joint rlys., or a shorter distance (if the traveller can find a boat in which to cross the Severn) to Berrington Stat. on the Severn Valley line.

(*b*) To **Battlefield, Albright Hussey,** and **Haughmond.**

Take the Whitchurch road, and just beyond the third milestone turn to the l. under a rly. bridge to the isolated ch. of **Battlefield,** on the locality of the battle between Henry IV. and the Percies, July 21, 1403. "When Henry Percy rebelled against Henry IV., and was resolutely bent to attack the walls of Shrewsbury, which that King had made exceeding strong, by a turn of fortune he was prevented, and his measures broken in a trice—for the King himself was suddenly at his heels with an army; whom the rash youth engaging, after a long and sharp dispute, despairing of success, exposed himself wilfully to death. The place from this battle was called Battlefield, where the King afterwards built a chapel and settled 2 priests to pray for the soul of the slain."—*Camden.* The *Collegiate Ch.* has been restored by *Mr. Pounteney Smith.* It consists of a single aisle and chancel. At the W. end is a very fine embattled tower, of which the upper stage is of the

date of the beginning of the 16th cent. It contains a fireplace. Above the chancel window is a niche with a figure of Henry IV There is a good lych gate. In the interior of the ch. is a good oak figure of our Lady of Pity (15th cent.), placed in the centre of the 3 sedilia. There are 2 good windows in the vestry. A piece of land adjoining the ch. is called the "King's Croft," from its being the place where the king pitched his tent.

A short walk across the fields leads to **Albright Hussey**, where is a curious old moated mansion belonging to the Husseys, and subsequently to the Corbets. There are slight remains of a ruined chapel dedicated to St. John.

Returning to the road, the traveller retraces his path nearly as far as the second milestone from Shrewsbury, where he should turn to the l., and, passing the edge of *Sundorne* Park, turns to the l. again at the school. The road now passes,

2½ m. (from Battlefield), *Sundorne Castle* (A. E. Perkins, Esq.), a somewhat tame and uninteresting Shropshire residence, except as regards its associations with Haughmond, placed in the midst of a large and well-wooded park, ornamented with extensive sheets of water. The house is castellated, of a warm-coloured red sandstone, and contains a fine entrance hall, oak staircase, and library.

On a slope of a wooded hill ½ m. distant are the beautiful ruins of the **ABBEY OF HAUGHMOND** * (Haut mont, the high mount), which present some very interesting architectural remains. The hill itself is noted as the spot where Lord Douglas was taken prisoner after the battle of Shrewsbury, his horse falling under him as he was being pursued. There is a place on the hill still called "Douglas's Leap."

The **Priory**, afterwards developed into a monastery for canons regular of St. Augustine, was founded in the 12th cent. by William Fitzalan, a great benefactor of Shropshire religious houses. Among the privileges granted to Haughmond was one by Pope Alexander III., 1172, which allowed "that where there should happen to be a general interdict, the monks might perform the divine office in a low voice, with closed doors." For his adherence to the cause of the Empress Maud, William Fitzalan was banished by Stephen, and did not enjoy any of his estates until the accession of Henry II. to the throne. The favour which this monarch showed to him he also extended to the monks of Haughmond, who obtained several advantages thereby. The establishment flourished for many years, with but few drawbacks to its prosperity until the Dissolution, when the monastery and lands were granted to the Littletons of Pilaton Hall, in the adjoining county of Stafford. From them it passed by purchase to Sir Rowland Hill, and then to the Barkers, Kynastons, and Corbets.

When in full preservation the abbey must have covered a great deal of ground, but at present there is very little of the ch. left, though a considerable portion of the monastic buildings. From the foundations visible it is evident that the ch. was cruciform, and had a nave, choir and transepts; and as the ground slopes rather rapidly, it is probable that the floor was elevated into stages. "During a clearance of the foundations, on the north-western side, shallow Norm. shafts were exposed, which followed the wall of the building. At this point there seems to have been an entrance to the ch. by an E. Eng. portal about 11 ft. square, with an ascent of 3 or 4 steps. Several tiles, forming portions of the tesselated pavement, have occasionally been found, some of them curious and rare in pattern, and displaying the device of a fish within a vesica."

On the S. side of the ch., opening into the cloisters, is a Norm. entrance, on either side of which are figures of St. Peter and St. Paul, which have been placed there subsequent to the building of the arch. A door close by led to the dormitory, which occupied the upper story to the W. of the cloister. Forming the eastern boundary of what was the cloister is the Chapter House, a very beautiful specimen of trans. date from Norm. to E. Eng. The W. front has a rich doorway with minor arches on either side, both adorned by a profusion of foliage. In the

jambs of the columns are crocketed canopies, occupied by figures, a good deal mutilated, which are said to have been placed there in the 14th cent., but these have suffered sorely from iconoclasts, whose sins are traditionally heaped on the Barkers, proprietors in the 16th cent. They are the Archangel Michael, St. John, St. Catherine, St. Margaret, St. Mary, and one or two bps. In shape the interior is square, but with the E. wall forms two sides of an hexagon. A fine ribbed oak ceiling, with mouldings of the 14th cent., seems to denote that there was an upper story. Extending to the S. in a line with the Chapter House is the day-room or locutory, and to the W. of that, forming the S. boundary of the cloister, is the Refectory, of which an arched doorway (by which is a mutilated figure of the Virgin and child on a bracket), and a portion of W. window of Dec. date, with good mouldings, are the only portions left. Adjoining the S. end of the day-room is the abbot's house, whence a door to the W. leads to the Guest Hall or hospitium. A portion of the window in the former remains, but the upper part disappeared in 1810. The Hall is a remarkably fine apartment, 81 ft. in length, and was lighted partly by a Dec. window, the tracery of which has vanished, partly by other windows. In one of the corners is a newel staircase into the turret, and on the N. side is a very large fireplace with the Tudor rose and an oak pattern carved over it. The fishponds were situated in a field to the N. by the ch., and the Monk's Well is behind the Chapter House. This is a curious little building of the 15th cent., measuring only $10\frac{1}{2}$ ft. by $7\frac{1}{2}$ ft., with an angular vaulted roof. Near this are 2 ancient tombstones, the Norm. French inscriptions on which have been copied on a board placed close by. From the well, which is on a bank above the abbey, there is a charming view westward, looking over the park and towers of Sundorne—with the spires and chimneys of Shrewsbury in the distance. The background is formed by an amphitheatre of mountains, in which the Berwyns, the Breidden, Moel-y-golfa, the Stiperstones, and the Longmynd are the most conspicuous. A large park is said by Saxton to have been attached to the Abbey; "and its origin may apparently be traced to the patent granted by Edward I., in the 24th year of his reign, to enclose 20 acres, and by Edward II., in 1313, to enclose 60 acres of their bosc or wood which lay within the royal forest of Haghmon." On Ebury Hill, 1 m. to the N., is a circular camp, but so thickly planted that it is difficult to make out. From this side, too, there is a fine view to the N. and E. over the ridge of Hawkstone, the country round Wem, and a large expanse of agricultural district. On the return to Shrewsbury, the road by which the visitor entered the abbey grounds should be crossed, and the path followed under the hill to **Uffington Castle**, a small tower, containing no interest in itself, but worth visiting for the view, and the picturesque slopes and woods all round. By this path the tourist can gain the road leading to Upton Magna Stat., about $2\frac{3}{4}$ m. The shortest way back is by the canal (about $3\frac{1}{2}$ m.)

(*c*) To **Pitchford, Acton Burnell, Church Preen.** The train must be taken to *Condover Stat.* It is $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the village of the same name.

Condover ch. (restored completely) has good trans. Norm. windows in the S. transept. The gable end of the S. transept is half timbered and possesses an elaborately carved barge-board. It contains a monument to Roger Owen (1717) by Roubilliac, also a recumbent effigy of his wife and child, executed by Mr. Reginald Cholmondeley, and another, kneeling, of Mr. Cholmondeley-Owen by the same hand. The parish register dates from 1557.

Condover Park (Reginald Cholmondeley, Esq.), formerly the seat of the Owens, whose ancestor, Thomas Owen, a Judge of Common Pleas,

purchased it in the reign of Henry VIII. He also built the house, a fine Elizabethan mansion, on the banks of the Cound Brook. It possesses a charming formal garden, which can be seen from the ch.-yd.

Turn to the rt. on leaving the ch., and pass the front of the Hall, which is well seen from the entrance gates. Cross the Cound Brook, and at the fork take the road to the l. about 1 m. from Condover, and just past 2 cottages there is a stile on the rt. by which Pitchford can be reached, or the road, which is somewhat longer, may be followed. In the latter case the rt.-hand road should be followed at the cross. In either case walk through the park to

4 m. (2½ from Condover by fields) **Pitchford Hall,*** the residence of Lieut.-Col. C. J. Cotes, whose family acquired it by marriage with the heiress of the Earl of Liverpool. It is a very curious and picturesque old house of timber and plaster-work, built at the commencement of the 16th cent. by William Otley, sheriff of the county, whose sire purchased the estate in 1473, and whose descendants held it till, at the death of the last of the name, it passed, in 1807, to the late Lord Liverpool. Sir Francis Otley, one of its owners, was the loyal governor of Shrewsbury in the Civil War. Her Majesty, when Princess Victoria, and the Duchess of Kent stayed here with the Earl of Liverpool in 1832. The house, which is one of the best of its kind in the county, is E-shaped, with the straight side turned to the ch. The opposite side is a most picturesque piece of work. The house contains many oak-panelled rooms, one of them possessing a good plaster ceiling. There is here a hiding-place of considerable size, approached by a ladder through a closet-floor. An excellent general view of the house can be obtained from the summit of the avenue leading to the village.

The **Church**, which is close to the Hall, and is supposed to have been founded in the reign of Henry I. or Stephen, contains an oak figure of a Crusader, in chain armour, supposed to be the effigy of one of the De Pychfords.

Beyond the ch. and Hall is *Pitchford* village, which derived its name from a natural bituminous spring. Marmaduke Rawdon of Yorke, in his tour (17th cent.), mentions it. "Thir is in this well four little hooles, about halfe a yard diep, out of which comes little lumps of pitch, but that which is att the tope of the well is softish, and swimes upon the water like tarr, but being skimd together itt incorporates and is knead together like soft wax and becomes hard. Of this pitch they brought some home with them, which the inhabitants say is more medicinall then other pitch. In the Holy Land there are some springs that cast up a bitumus stuffe like this."

Follow the straight road for 1 m. to

5 m. **Acton Burnell,*** a beautifully situated village lying under the slopes of a well-wooded hill, Shadwell Coppice (790 ft.) The **Hall** is the seat of Sir C. F. Smythe, Bart., whose ancestry have held it from Charles II.'s time, when Sir Edward Smythe, Knt., of Durham, married the heiress of Sir Richard Lee, of Acton Burnell. The house is a fine Grecian building of white stone, overlooking a beautifully wooded park and the distant hills of the Lawley and the Wrekin. The l. wing contains a Roman Catholic chapel, and was erected by and for the French Benedictine monks who were received there at the time of the French Revolution. The Benedictine mission here dates back to the end of the 18th cent. Near the house are the ruins of the ancient **castle** of *Acton Burnell*, of the date of the latter part of the 13th cent., with geometrical tracery in the windows and mouldings of somewhat later Dec. style. Mr. Parker points out the great resemblance between Acton Burnell and the Bishop's Palace at Wells, both by the same builder. In shape it is a parallelogram, having a small square tower at each

angle. The walls are very thick, and on the W. are lighted by small square windows. On the N. side is the hall, occupying an upper story, and lighted by 3 large transomed windows. In Mr. Parker's opinion, the private chapel would have stood on the S. side. The principal front and entrance are on the E. "Here it was that, when King Edward I. held his Parliament in 1283, the nobles were assembled, while the Commons sat in a large barn hard by. The memory of this event still lives in the statutes passed here, properly called 'Statutum de Mercatoribus,' but more particularly known as the Statute of Acton Burnell; of which Lord Campbell says that the subject was as well understood in Chancellor Burnell's days as in those of Lords Eldon and Lyndhurst. It was passed here on the 12th of October, and provided that debtors in London, York, and Bristol should appear before the different Mayors and agree upon a certain day of payment, otherwise an execution might be issued against their goods." *Burke.*

Beyond the castle are the 2 end walls of the tithe barn of the Abbot of the Monastery of St. Peter and St. Paul at Shrewsbury, where the Commons sat, which must have been a building of great size.

The founder of the castle and estate was Sir Robert Burnell, some time tutor to the Prince (afterwards Edward I.), who made him Bishop of Bath and Wells, and Lord Treasurer and Lord Chancellor of England, 1292. From his experience as a diplomatist, he was much employed by Edward I. in the affairs of the Welsh Marches. Philip Burnell, the Bishop's nephew and heir, was a spendthrift, and the family of the Burnells seems to have died out in the 15th cent., when the property came, through a daughter, to the Lovells, by one of whom it was forfeited on account of his loyalty to Richard III. It then fell to the Crown, and was granted by Henry VIII. to the Earl of Surrey, of Flodden renown.

The **Church** has a graceful E. Eng. chancel in which is a leper window with external stone bench. There is a fine brass to Nicholas de Handlo, who married the heiress of the Burnells and assumed their name in 1360. Also an altar-tomb to Sir R. Lee, ob. 1591. The N. transept contains many old tiles.

Between Acton Burnell and Cardington is a stretch of Roman pavement, about 250 yds. long, known as the **Devil's Causeway.**

[About $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of Acton Burnell is the village of **Frodesley**, which possesses one of the oldest parish registers in Shropshire, commencing March 25, 1547. Frodesley Hall is an Elizabethan building, dated 1594, and built by Edward Scriven, whose son Richard received from Charles I., on one of his visits to Shropshire, the heirloom of a pair of embroidered gauntlets. The bracketing of the corners of the upper story is uncommon. It is now occupied as a farmhouse. The late Sir Herbert Edwardes, of Mooltan celebrity, was born at the Rectory. The ch. is modern.]

The road up the hill, with the park and coppice on the l., is now to be pursued to *Ruckley* ($6\frac{1}{2}$ m.) The pedestrian will now have reached the N. end of Apedale, and will find himself in one of the quietest and most beautiful parts of Shropshire. Taking the road to the l., and passing a disused *ch.*, he will reach **Langley Hall**, the gateway of which, a most interesting piece of architecture, still remains. Beyond the farm now representing the Hall, the road turns sharply to the rt. After $\frac{3}{4}$ m. of narrow lane, the road branches rt. and l. To the l. is the village of **Kenley**, where Sir A. Alison, the historian, was born. His father was rector in 1792, and wrote here his "Letters on Taste."

The road on the rt. should be followed to 9 m. **Church Preen**, where there is a *Manor House* designed by Mr. Norman Shaw, R.A. (A. Sparrow, Esq.) The *ch.*, which is close by and much hidden by trees, is extraordinarily narrow, its inside measurements being 69 ft. by 12 ft. 9 in. It contains a good oak pulpit, marked R.T. 1641.

The traveller will now cross the park and turn to the l. on reaching the road to

10½ m. **Hughley.** The *ch.* contains the original carved oak rood screen, also an ancient altar-stone with its 5 consecration crosses. From this point it is 1½ m. to *Presthope Stat.* on the Much Wenlock line.

[NOTE.—This excursion is more suitable for pedestrians, who can shorten the way by foot-paths between Condover and Pitchford and Langley and Preen, than for carriages, as the roads in the latter part are very bad.]

(*d*) To the **Stiperstones.** [NOTE.—This is a magnificent but rough and tiring walk, and the pedestrian must take food with him, as the country is quite destitute of inns.] The train should be taken to *Pontesbury.*

The line passes on the l. the modern ch. of Meole Brace. The next stat. is **Great Hanwood**; on the rt. is Cruckton Hall.

Passing **Plealey Stat.** the line reaches **Pontesbury,** 2 m. from which is a double British camp, on the top of Pontesford Hill. This hill is a prominent feature, standing as it does in the centre of the valley between the Longmynd and the Stiperstones. There are also earthworks on Pontesbury Hill, due S. of the village.

The **Church** was originally collegiate, still consists of 3 portions, rectories or prebends, and has a broad nave with aisles and a tower of 3 stages on the N. side between the nave and chancel. It was rebuilt in 1828.

From Pontesbury the road must be taken to 1¾ m. *Habberley.* Continue the road to the first turn on the rt. where a lane leads up the hill, enter Eastridge Wood by a gate, and keep along its lower edge. A farm will be seen to the l. on the lower slope, called *Marsley.* This has been identified by Mr. Eyton as the park of Marsetalie, mentioned in Domesday. "It is recorded among the ancient customs of Shrewsbury that when the King visited the town, the sheriff used to send 36 footmen as his body-guard (*ad stabilitionem*) for so long as he remained there. But for the Park of Marsetalie, he used customarily to find 36 men for eight days." The adjoining district is named Hockestow Forest in Saxton's survey.

Leaving the wood by another gate follow the road to the rt. to another farm. To the rt. of this turn up the hill to a sparse but extensive plantation of fine hollies. Keep along the lower border of this to a gate in a wire fence, and pass through this on to the moor. Keep to the rt. until a cottage is reached. Passing through the field by this, a spring of good water will be found. Beyond is the first outcrop of rock, *Habberley Rock*, resembling a staircase between two ruined walls. Keep straight along the ridge (there is no definite path), passing successively *Pontesbury Rock*, the highest point of the range; the *Shepherd's Rock*, a square mass; and the *Scattered Rocks* to the *Devil's Chair*, consisting of 3 masses of stone, the largest of which has a natural window in the centre. From this point there is a fine view, somewhat similar to that obtained from the Longmynd. The moor here is very wild, being covered with loose stones, amongst which heather, bilberries and cranberries grow in profusion. Keep straight on to *Cranberry Rock*, the last outcrop of stone in this part of the range. Here descend to the road on the rt. near the *Bogmine*, recognisable by 2 patches of water (*the Bog*) lying near it. Of the range thus traversed Murchison remarks: "These stony masses appear to the artist like insulated Cyclopean ruins jutting out upon a lofty moorland ridge at heights varying from 1,500 to 1,611 ft. above the sea. On reaching the summit the traveller sees below him to the W. a rapid slope and beyond it a picturesque hilly tract, the strata of which are laden with lower Silurian fossils and diversified by a variety of rocks of igneous origin. The Stiperstones are outstanding fragments of a thick band of silicious sandstone. Though

in parts veined, altered and fractured, and occasionally passing into quartz rock, they yet form an integral portion of the outlying schistose formation, while fragments of the shells called Lingulæ occur in them. The rock has all the appearance of having been altered by the influence of the heat which must have accompanied the evolutions of those igneous rocks (chiefly greenstone) which occur on both sides the ridge."—*Siluria.*

The tourist has now a choice of ways by which to return. He can (*α*) turn to the rt. at the Bog and follow the road in the valley through Snailbeach to Minsterley, whence he can return to Shrewsbury by train. [Length of excursion, about 12–14 m.] Or (*β*) he can go straight on, passing on the l. 2 detached rocks, *Nipstone Rock*, on the hill above him, until he comes to *The Rock*, on the E. side of which is a perfect cascade of loose stones. In front is a detached hill with cart tracks leading up it to mines, *Black Rhadley Hill.* Keeping to the l. of this, he will follow the road to a gate leading into *Linley Drive*, a charming valley, between 2 wooded hills, watered by the river *West Onny.* Traversing this, he will reach the road by *Linley Hall* (R. Jasper More, Esq., M.P.), in the grounds of which is a *tumulus.* From this point he will pass through *More* to Lydham Heath Stat. on the Bishop's Castle line. The distance is about the same as by the other route.

(*e*) To **Stapeley Hill** and the **Stone Circles.** [Distance to Mitchell's Fold, about 6 or 7 m. Thence by *α*, to Lydham Heath 6 or 7 more, and by *β*, about the same. The latter is the prettier walk, if it has not already been taken. The caution respecting food given in connection with Excursion *d* may here be repeated.] The train should be taken to **Minsterley**☆ *Stat.* (see Excursion *d*) ; then take the road through *Ploxgreen* to *Hopesgate* (3 m.) There is here a modest wayside beerhouse, the last hostelry of any kind which the traveller will see, to which a conveyance sometimes runs from Minsterley. A footpath leads across a field to a large boulder, the *Lordstone*, in the hedge by the side of the lane, on which is said to be the mark of the Devil's foot. Turn up the hill to the l., and keep straight on by *Gorsty Bank* to a gate which admits to the moor. Two or three hundred yards to the l. is a stone circle, the **Marshpool Circle.** This is a fairly regular circle, about 70 ft. in circumference, consisting of 27 stones of no great height, with a larger one in the centre. Two of the stones have round holes bored in them to a depth of 2 or 3 in. Return to the path and keep straight along to the summit (1,320 ft.) There is a magnificent view of the Welsh mountains, including Snowdon and Cader Idris, which can be well seen on a clear day. Here is also what is apparently a low tumulus, surrounded by a ring of stones almost entirely covered by turf. At the S. end of the hill, to the rt. of some marshy ground where *Drosera rotundifolia* grows, and just beyond some cultivated fields, is **Mitchell's Fold** (= muckle or great fold—Miss Burne devotes a chapter to the folklore of this circle), about 90 ft. in circumference, and consisting of 15 stones, the tallest of which is about 6 ft. high. Beyond this are a few other stones, the *Whetstones*, which may have been part of another circle. From this point the tourist can return (*α*) by making for the *White Grit* Mine, and there turning to the rt. and following the main road for 3¼ m., when he can turn to the rt. to **Hyssington**, near which is an earthwork known as **Simond's Castle.** Before reaching Hyssington he will pass under the E. face of *Corndon Hill.* From Hyssington he will take the road, passing on the rt. the *Roveries*, a wooded hill with a camp, through *More* to *Lydham Heath* Stat. Or (*β*) instead of turning to the rt. to Hyssington, he can follow the main road until the lodge gate of *Linley Drive* is reached. He will enter here and follow the drive to the river *West*

Onny, whence his way will be the same as at the end of Excursion *d*.

Quitting the General stat., the line crosses the Severn immediately, and again about 1½ m. farther on. On the l. is the picturesque hill of Haughmond, crowned by Uffington Castle above and the ch. below. To the rt. is **Longner Hall**, the seat of J. L. Burton, Esq., whose family has been settled here for many generations. The house is Elizabethan, fronted with Grinshill stone. But the chief interest lies in the grounds, which contain the tomb of Edward Burton, whose opposition to Queen Mary is related in "Foxe's Book of Martyrs."

3¾ m. **Upton** *Stat.* The village of Upton Magna is to the rt., and contains a fine *ch.*, restored by *Street*. It is 2½ m., a walk through pretty country lanes, to Wroxeter. Upton Magna was the largest of the manors bestowed by Earl Roger de Montgomery on his favourite Warine, and its history is a good deal interwoven with that of the early sheriffs. Crossing the Shrewsbury Canal and the river Teme, the traveller reaches

6¼ m. **Walcott** *Stat.* 1½ m. N.W. is **Withington** *Ch.*, which contains some *brasses* of the 15th cent. The Wrekin on the rt. becomes a conspicuous feature in the scenery all the way to *Wellington*, 10 m. (Rte. 7), where the Nantwich and Market Drayton line comes in on l. and the Great Western is given off to Wolverhampton, as well as a branch to Coalbrook Dale.

11½ m. **Hadley** *Stat.* The line skirts the northern boundary of the Shropshire coalfield, which is less disfigured on this side than on any other. The furnaces on the rt. in the distance are those of Wombridge and Donnington.

14 m. **Donnington** *Stat.*, the nearest to *Lilleshall Abbey*, 2½ m. rt. After emerging from the stat. lane, follow the turnpike road to Newport for 1 m. to the rt., and then, opposite the village ch. of Lilleshall and the first Duke of Sutherland's monument, turn to the rt., and, passing some 4 or 5 fieldgates on the l. of the road, you espy the abbey front in the midst of a sequestered group of trees. It is a very pretty walk, the road passing, at no great distance, the village and old hall of Lilleshall.

Lilleshall Church has a good Norm. S. door and a font of the same date, a leper window and monuments in the chancel to R. Leveson and his wife Katharine (1661). The name of Lilleshall, or Lilla's Hill, commemorates, doubtless, some early Saxon lord. Of the **ABBEY**,* founded in 1145 for Augustin canons by Richard and Philip de Beaumes, the former Dean of St. Alkmund's, Shrewsbury, the latter Lord of Tonge, some very beautiful remains are left. Of these Rickman thus speaks: "The plan of the abbey is very peculiar—a long narrow ch. without aisles, but with transepts, no triforium, but a clerestory high up in the walls to allow for the cloister and domestic buildings abutting against them; the nave is divided by transverse walls into 3 portions; the choir has chapels on either side; the E. window is Dec. Its chief feature is the round-headed western portal, of 3 orders, with a 4-leaved flower in the outer moulding, the shafts destroyed, but one capital of graceful foliage and moulding still remaining. It is supposed to have been surmounted, as at Malmesbury, by a Perp. tower. There are considerable ruins also of the refectory and the abbot's house," the connection of the conventual buildings with the ch. being very interesting, especially the rich designing of the fine Norm. door on S. side, outside which is a large double ambry surmounted by a Norm. arch. At the demolition, like 3 of the bells of the central tower of Wenlock Priory, the stalls of the choir were removed to Wolverhampton ch., where they now are (*Handbook for Staffordshire*). To the E. also are traces of the Chapter House, with

one remaining window of the dormitory above it. Although Lilleshall was a wealthy establishment, the abbots used to complain that from their proximity to the Watling Street, which runs some 3 m. to the S., the number of pilgrims that sought their hospitality was so great that it caused them to be really poor. At the Dissolution the manor was given by Henry VIII. to James Leveson, in whose family it remained till the 17th cent., when Frances, daughter and heiress of Sir John Leveson, brought it by marriage into the family of Gower, and it is still a residence of the Dukes of Sutherland. The hall is a Tudor building, very prettily situated, overlooking the abbey ruins, and has charming terrace-gardens. In the adjoining parish of Preston is the old park belonging to the Abbot of Lilleshall, still called Lubstree Park, but now a farm.

As is evident to the traveller, the Lilleshall estate is mostly valuable for its underground treasures in the shape of coal and limestone. Some very interesting and successful experiments have been made by the Duke of Sutherland in sinking for coal through the New Red sandstone, thus increasing to an enormous extent the productive area of the field. About 1 m. from Lilleshall is *Woodcote Hall* (J.W. Williams, Esq.) *Woodcote Ch.* has an E. Norm. S. door, and contains an incised alabaster slab, dated 1500.

18 m. *Newport Stat.* **NEWPORT**☆ is a pleasant well-built little place, affording a good market for th agricultural district between Wellington and Stafford. The *ch.* is E. Eng., and there is a grammar school here, founded by one William Adams in 1665.

About 1 m. from the town, just outside the Shropshire border, is *Aqualate*, the seat of Sir Thomas F. Boughey, Bart., in the grounds of which is a very fine mere, from whence it has obtained its name (*Aqua lata*).

2½ m. from Newport, to the N., i the village of **Edgmund**, the *ch.* of which contains a brass with effigy in shroud of Francis Yonge, ob. 1533. Adjoining it is the *Rectory* (Ven. Archdeacon Lloyd), which was formerly a monastic establishment. It is of 14th cent. date, but of its history little or nothing is known.

1½ m. to the N. is *Chetwynd Knoll* (J. S. B. Borough, Esq.), formerly the seat of the Chetwynds, whose heiress married Sir Richard de Peshale, Sheriff of Shropshire in 1333. The Pigott family was subsequently seated here for 12 generations. The park contains fallow deer, "but this is not the original park, for there had been one before, as appears by an inquest on the death of John de Chetwynd in 1281."

Immediately beyond Newport the boundary line between the counties is crossed and the rly. enters Staffordshire (*Handbook for Staffordshire*).

ROUTE 9.

FROM SHREWSBURY, BY ALBERBURY, WESTBURY, CHIRBURY, AND CHURCHSTOKE, TO BISHOP'S CASTLE (BY ROAD).

Road.	Places.
	Shrewsbury
8½ m.	Alberbury
10½ m.	Wattlesboro'
12½ m.	Westbury
20 m.	Marten
23½ m.	Chirbury
26½ m.	Churchstoke
32 m.	Bishop's Castle

Distances from Bishop's Castle—Shrewsbury, 20 m.; Ludlow, 20 m.; Welshpool, 15 m.

The Welshpool road passes through Frankwell, past the lunatic asylum.

3½ m. on l. Onslow Hall (Mrs Wingfield).

5½ m. turn to rt. by **Benthall Cross**, past

7 m. on l. **Rowton Castle** (J. J. Owen, Esq.), a seat of Lord Rowton, was formerly in the hands of the Corbets and the Le Stranges, and passed by purchase to the Lysters, one of whom, Sir Thomas Lyster, a zealous loyalist, was taken prisoner at Shrewsbury; but his wife held the castle so gallantly against Col. Mytton, that she succeeded in making good terms for her husband.

8½ m. **Alberbury**, close to which is Loton, the beautiful seat of Sir Baldwin Leighton, Bart.

The *ch.* is a fine building, with a massive saddle-back tower. The S. aisle, the E. window of which is blocked, has a good roof with carved beams, a recessed tomb with slab, bearing ball flower, and a little old glass in one window. Adjoining the ch. are the scanty remains of **Alberbury Castle**, formerly the property of the Fitzwarines. In this parish are 2 farms called **White** and **Red Abbey**, but they were originally portions of a priory of the Benedictine order of Grandmont, founded between 1220 and 1230 by Fulke Fitzwarine. The deer park extends for a considerable distance up the slopes of the Breidden, which for the whole way from Shrewsbury have been most conspicuous features of the landscape.

[**Bausley Hill**, a portion of the largest ridge of the Breidden range, is still marked by the remains of a camp, to the E. of the *old fortress* on the Breidden. The *ch.*, originally a Saxon collegiate ch., contains monuments, *brasses*, and a memorial window to the Leightons, also one to the family of Lyster, and several to that of Lloyd. At 11 m. the Severn is joined by the Vyrnwy, near which, on rt., is a singular conical mound called **Belan Bank**, probably used to guard the passage of the river, which is crossed by a narrow bridge, at 13 m. the village of Llandrinio, in Montgomeryshire.]

10½ m. (or 9½ if the path through the deer park is taken) **Wattlesboro' Castle**, a farm with remains of an old feudal building attached. The remains consist of a single low square Norm. tower and N. wing, with blocked Norm. semicircular windows. Four other towers are said to have existed, and to have been removed to furnish building materials for Alberbury ch. The tower was once higher, and has been finished off with a low roof. The first and second floor rooms possess water-drains, and have garderobes attached. The building, which is most interesting, is now inhabited by a farmer, but was originally the property of the Corbets, the Mouthés, the Burghs, and the Leightons.

[2 m. rt. is the village of **Woolaston**, near which are a few early remains in the shape of tumuli and a moat. **Winnington**, in this parish, was the birthplace of Thomas Parr, commonly called Old Parr, who was born in the reign of Edward IV., and died in that of Charles I., after a life of 152 years. Woolaston is a small chapelry and township of Alberbury to the S.W. The ch., which has a wooden bell-turret, contains a *brass* in memory of Old Parr. The **BREIDDEN**, the steep wooded sides of which tower over the road, are a singular group, rising to the height of 1,202 ft., though they appear more, in consequence of their isolation. The most precipitous peak is that of **Moel-y-golfa**, nearest Welshpool, which is divided from the other heights by a deep ravine. The most northerly summit, overlooking the Severn, is crowned with **Rodney's Pillar**, erected to commemorate the victory obtained by that Admiral over the French fleet in 1782. At the foot of the magnificent wood-covered escarpment stands the village of **Criggion**, with its picturesque little red sandstone ch. It is pretty certain that the direct ascent of the Romans could not have been possibly made from the Rhyd Esgyn ford or "Ferry of the Ascent," but was rather made by the Outher ford, a mile or two nearer Welshpool, N. of the Old Mills farm, and in direct route for the Moel-y-golfa, past Voel Coppice in Trewern.

On the hill which rises behind the pillar are traces of an ancient fortress, as also of a considerable encampment at Cefn-y-Castell, behind Moel-y-golfa, which last peak ought to be ascended. The view is very charming, and particularly towards the N.W. and W., looking over Oswestry and the red hills of Llanymynach, backed up by the noble ranges of the Berwyns. To the E. the eye glances over the rich champaign flats of the Severn, with Haughmond Hill, the Hawkstone ridge, and the spires of Shrewsbury in the distance. Southward the most prominent feature is the Long Mountain, with its monotonous outline, and there is a good look-out over the town of Welshpool on the "Red" or Powis Castle, with its noble and venerable oaks and feudal associations. Geologically considered, these mountains are interesting, as marking a line of eruption ranging from S.W. to N.E. They are "a mass of porphyritic and amygdaloidal greenstone, which in its protrusion has carried up included portions of slaty rocks, and has thrown off pebble-beds and Upper Silurian (of the Long Mountain) to the S.E., and Lower Silurian to the N.W."—*Murchison.* One derivation of the appellation Breidden avails itself of this characteristic, making it signify Breith Den, *the Speckled Camp*, from the trap-rock. Botanists have found on the Breidden, the only known locality in Great Britain, *Potentilla rupestris*, as well as *Lychnis viscaria*, *Geranium sanguineum*, *Veronica spicata* and *hybrida*; and *Saxifraga hypnoides*, found also in other volcanic formations.]

12½ m. **Westbury Stat.** (Shrewsbury and Welshpool Rly.)

13½ m. **Westbury**, to the rt. Whitton Hall.

15 m., on rt. 1 m., overlooking the valley of the Rea, are the remains of **Caus Castle**, an old border stronghold, in which traces of keep and wall are still visible, and which Peter Corbet held of the Crown after the Norman conquest for military service.

"Exposed to all the turmoil of a hostile position, here dwelt the eldest of two English sons of Corbet the Norman. On the right were the mountain fastnesses of Powisland, and on the three other sides Roger FitzCorbet's position was immediately or remotely backed by the strongholds and manors of his own English vassals, or of his brother the Lord of Longden. Further off in front, looking over Minsterley, and across the valley of the Rea, the eye rested on the Forest of Stiper Stones, over a chace of Saxon kings, but appropriated, with all its rights as a royal forest, by the Barons of Caus. Caus Castle is finely situated on an insulated ridge rising from a ravine which fronts the Stiper Stones. John Thynne, founder of Longleate, who died in 1604, married Jane, daughter of Sir Rowland Hayward, who inherited from her mother Jane, heiress of William Tyllsworth, the manors of Caus Castle, Stretton All, and probably Minsterley."—*Castles of Shropshire*, p. 65.

17½ m. **Worthen.**

20 m. **Marton.** There is a pretty mere and a tumulus near the *ch.* The hills on the rt. are well wooded.

22 m. on l. a mine from which baryta is extracted.

23½ m. **Chirbury**, ✠ a pretty village where is supposed to have once been the site of a castle built by Æthelfled, a Queen of Mercia. However that may be, the celebrity of Chirbury arises from its having been the residence of Lord Herbert of Chirbury, who was born in 1581 at Montgomery Castle. He was one of the most polished ornaments of the Court of James I., and, in addition to his military services in the Netherlands, was, like his brother, George Herbert, a man of mark in literature. It was here that he wrote his work "De Veritate," with a view to prove the uselessness of revelation (1624). The ch. was built in 1127 by Humphry de Winsbury, sheriff of the county.

S. of Chirbury is **Marnington Dingle**, a charming and well-wooded valley through which the Camlad runs. On the l. side of this and about halfway is the British work of **Caerbre.** **Marnington Hall**, the grounds of which extend along the W. bank, is the seat of S. D. Price-Davies, Esq. It is a very striking black-and-white timbered structure, of the date circa 1600 A.D., and was built by Richard Lloyd, to whose grandsire the

manor passed by marriage with the heiress of the Bowlers. In front of the mansion is a curious sundial, coeval with the building, and bearing date 1595. It is a square stone pillar, on which is the Lloyd crest, and the arms of 6 associated families, with the legend

"From day to day these shades do flee,
And so this life passeth away."

Marnington was sold by the son of its builder to the first Lord Craven, and has since repeatedly changed hands.

26½ m. **Churchstoke**, a pretty village at the junction of the Camlad (said to be the only stream which flows from England into Wales), Caebitra, and Lach brooks, which, still under the name of the former stream, flow due N. Thence the road passes under the S. extremity of Todleth Hill to

30 m. **Snead.**

32 m. **Bishop's Castle** (p. 37).

ROUTE 10.

FROM SHREWSBURY TO CHIRK (GREAT WESTERN RLY).

Rail.	Places.
	Shrewsbury
4½ m.	Leaton
7½ m.	Baschurch
13½ m.	Rednall
16 m.	Whittington
18 m.	Gobowen Junct.
20 m.	Oswestry

Quitting Shrewsbury from the General Railway Stat., the traveller passes through a pretty wooded country, though not much is visible on account of the extent of cutting. 1 m. l. is *Berwick Hall.*

4½ m. **Leaton Stat.** On l. are *Leaton Knolls* (G. J. Shakerley, Esq.), and *The Isle* (H. Sandford, Esq.), prettily situated within a horseshoe bend of the Severn.

7½ m. **Baschurch Stat.** On **Berth Hill**, 1 m. to the rt., are some ancient fortifications, surrounded by a circular vallum, the whole defended by a deep pool at the bottom of the eminence.

Baschurch is the place mentioned as "the Churches of Basa" by Llywarch Hên, in the elegy on the fall of Cyndelan, and, strange to say, an eminent Shropshire antiquary found proof in this against the authenticity of the poem, for he says, "Bass" is a Saxon name, forgetting Martial's epigram "Ad Bassam," and that there were no Christian churches in England then.

The *ch.* contains some Norm. work in the tower and S. aisle. There is a series of recessed tombs in the S. aisle, one of which bears the ball flower. There is a chained Bible at the W. end.

Between 2 and 3 m. to the rt. of Baschurch are the scanty fragments of **Middle Castle**, built by the Lords L'Estrange in the reign of Edward III. In the neighbourhood of Baschurch are *Walford Manor* (F. Hayes, Esq.) and *Hall* (T. S. Eyton, Esq.)

Marton and Fennymere Pools, near this, are of considerable size.

2 m. l. **Ruyton of the XI Towns** is thought by many antiquaries to be identical with the Roman station Rutunium. "Here was the seat of the great Le Strange family, which appears to have been imparked by John Le Strange about the year 1195, when he came to the following agreement with Hugh, abbot of Shrewsbury. The abbot conceded to Le Strange a corner of his wood of Birch, extending from the place where Le Strange's park-fence came down to the water of Peveree to the end of Le Strange's meadow on the side of Plettebrug Mill. This was to enlarge Le Strange's park, and he was to pay a rent of one doe yearly in acknowledgment."—*Shirley.*

The *ch.* contains some E. Norm. details in the chancel. In the ch.-yd. are a few fragments of the wall of the old castle.

9 m. on l. is *Boreatton Park* (Dr. Sankey), and on rt. 3 m. is *Petton* (Capt. E. B. Cunliffe).

13½ m. **Rednall** *Stat.*, in the neighbourhood of which are *Woodhouse* (A. Mostyn Owen, Esq.), *Aston*, the beautiful seat of Col. R. T. Lloyd, and

Tedsmere (Rev. T. M. B. Bulkeley-Owen).

16 m. **Whittington Junct.** for Ellesmere and Whitchurch (Rte. 12). On rt. are the ruins of the **Castle.**

The name *Wititonē* occurs in Domesday, when Earl Roger de Montgomery held it. From him it passed to Robert de Belesme, and was afterwards held in 1165 by Roger de Powys, becoming the property of Fulke Fitzwarine, circa 1200. In his line it remained until 1420.

The earthworks consist of a central mound of artificial origin, 30 ft. high and about 150 by 100 ft. in diameter, with 3 other platforms, protected by 3 banks and 3 ditches on the S. and W. The defence on the N. and E. was a morass, the ground still being marshy. The masonry now standing does not date back beyond the reign of Henry III. Vestiges of 8 towers remain, 4 of which are attached to the keep. Near Whittington is *Park Hall* (A. W. Corrie, Esq.), a magnificent Elizabethan gabled timber mansion. At the W. end is the domestic chapel consecrated by Archbp. Parker.

18 m. **Gobowen Junct.** for Oswestry, Welshpool, Newtown, and Aberystwith.

The first stat. on this Cambrian section is **OSWESTRY**☆—a pleasant busy Shropshire town of some 9,000 inhab., situated amongst prettily wooded hills in the district lying between Watt's and Offa's Dykes—the former, indeed, passing close to the N.E. outskirts. Though within the Shropshire border, its neighbourhood to Wales gives it much the character of a Welsh town, and many Welsh names are to be found here.

Formerly called Maesdir (= *maes* a meadow, and *tir* land) and afterwards Maserfield, it derived its subsequent name of Oswestry from the Northern King Oswald and the adjunct "tre" or town. Oswald was King of Northumberland, and was slain here in battle in 642, while endeavouring to dispossess Penda, King of Mercia, of his territory. His members are said to have been hung upon a cross or tree called *Croes Oswald*. The name was again changed to *Blanc Minster* ("Album Monasterium") on the erection of the Norm. ch. which preceded the present building. Finally the name of Oswestry was returned to and persists to the present day. The first royal charter was granted by Richard II. It was formerly well guarded by a castle, which stood on an eminence to the N., and walls in which were 4 gates, known as Black-gate, New-gate, Willow-gate, and Beatrice-gate.

The mound is now prettily planted and laid out with walks. Some fragments of the keep still remain.

The **Church** has been completely restored, but the fine old tower and steeple are little changed. In the interior are kneeling effigies of Hugh Yale and Dorothy his wife under a canopy, 1616.

There are several good half-timbered houses in the town.

Oswestry is a corporate town and holds sessions for its own borough, at which a Recorder presides. It possesses a handsome Town Hall, a House of Industry outside the town, and a Grammar School, founded in Henry IV.'s time by one David Holbeck.

A walk should be taken to **Hên Dinas** or **Old Oswestry**, which is less than 1 m. from the town. Turn to the l. just beyond the G.W.R. stat. After walking ½ m. turn to the rt. round a wooded hill, now excavated internally into a kind of quarry, which the traveller should enter, for here he will see the partly removed terminal moraine of one of the great glaciers of the Glacial period.

Near a cottage there is a gate leading into the camp. This represents the N. entrance, and the other end of the lane traversing the camp, the S. There are three ramparts of considerable height, though now difficult of clear definition on account of the growth of timber and underwood. The total fortifications covered a space of between 40 and 50 acres, exclusive of the area, which is about 16.

There is another remarkable earthwork, the **Castel** or **Castell Brogyntyn**, situated in **Brogyntyn Park** (long called Porkington by corruption), the beautiful seat of Lord Harlech. It is of a circular form, about 50 yds. in diameter, and is contained within a bank, from 4 to 6 ft. high,

outside which is a ditch. The central portion has been levelled for a bowling green.

Tradition states that it was constructed by Brogyntyn, a natural son of Owen Madre, Prince of Wales. The heiress of the family of Laken, in whose possession Brogyntyn originally was, conveyed it by marriage into that of Maurice, whose granddaughter married John Owen. Their son, Sir John, was a devoted Royalist; but in a bold attempt to lay siege to Carnarvon, which was then held by the Republicans, he was worsted and taken prisoner. His behaviour, when on his trial at Windsor, was bold and characteristic, and he was condemned by his judges to be beheaded—"upon which he made a low reverence to the court, and with much gravity returned them his humble thanks. A bystander had the curiosity to ask him the meaning of such strange behaviour, and to all appearance so much out of place, when he replied aloud, 'It is a great honour for a poor gentleman of Wales to lose his head with noble lords, for I was afraid they would have hanged me.' But the stout knight had the good fortune to escape the great honour. Ireton proved his advocate in the House of Commons, and so successfully, that he was allowed to die in Heaven's good time, with his head upon his shoulders."—*Burke.*

ROUTE 11.

FROM OSWESTRY TO SHREWSBURY, BY LLANYMYNECH, KNOCKIN, AND SHRAWARDINE (BY RAIL AND ROAD).

Rail.	Road.	Places.
		Oswestry
3 m.		Llynclys
	5 m.	Knockin
	8½ m.	Nesscliff
	16 m.	Shrewsbury

Distances from Oswestry—Shrewsbury 18 m., Ludlow 47 m., Welshpool 16 m., Wrexham 15 m., Llangollen 12 m., Ellesmere 7 m., Whitchurch 15 m.

To Llanymynech by Cambrian Rly.

The rly. leaves Oswestry, and runs due S. nearly parallel with Watt's Dyke, on the l., leaving on the rt. the turnpike road to Llanymynech.

2 m. *Sweeny Hall*, and l. 1 m. *Aston* (Capt. F. Lloyd).

3 m. **Llynclys** *Stat.*, near which is a small lake. The name Llynclys means "the swallowed hall," and the lake is one of several in Shropshire, in the depths of which is supposed to be a city or palace, submerged on account of the wickedness of its inhabitants. On l. is the village of Moreton. The line is here crossed by a tramroad, which conveys a large quantity of lime from the mountain-limestone quarry of Porthywaen to a wharf on the Ellesmere Canal.

The abrupt hill of **Llanymynech** (in a detached portion of Denbighshire) rises with precipitous escarpment on rt., and forms a striking feature in the landscape. It possesses, at Porthywaen, valuable limestone quarries, producing about 90,000 tons annually. Copper seems also to have been worked here by the Romans, who have left traces of their excavations in a large cave or Ogo hole, probably a copper mine of the Roman period (ogof = a cavern in Welsh), at the end of which, in 1761, were found several skeletons, together with some tools, and coins of the reign of Antoninus. Offa's Dyke is carried along the W. brow of the hill, which is worth ascending for the sake of the beautiful view, particularly towards the Berwyns. There are several earthworks situated on this hill.

The village of **Llanymynech** is situated on the line of Offa's Dyke, and on the l. bank of the Vyrnwy River, which here forms the boundary between Shropshire and Montgomeryshire.

[2 m. to rt. **Llanyblodwell**, a pretty village on the l. bank of the Tanat, which soon afterwards joins the Vyrnwy. Its *ch.* was restored and an octagonal tower erected by the late Rev. John Parker, one of the first of Welsh archæologists.]

By road from Llanymynech to

5 m. **Knockin**, where is the site and scanty remains of an old castle.

Knockin, or Cnuckin, in the Hundred of Oswestry, was the lordship of the L'Estranges, or Extranii, who built the town, fixed their seat there, and associated their name

with the castle. In the reign of Edward IV. the estate and name of the L'Estranges or Stranges passed with the sole heiress Joan to George Stanley, son and heir to Thos. Stanley, first Earl of Derby.

8½ m. **Nesscliff.** On the hill is a camp and a cave in a rock, divided partially into 2 rooms by a partition on which is carved H.K. 1564.

These are supposed to have been the initials of Humphry Kynaston, surnamed the Wild, who was declared an outlaw, and obliged to leave his residence of Middle Castle, which even then was nearly in ruins. It was a favourite spot for highwaymen, who used to lie in wait there for the Shrewsbury drapers on their way to Oswestry market. In 1583 the Drapers' Company of Shrewsbury ordered "that no draper set out for Oswestry on Mondays before 6 o'cl. on forfeiture of 6*s.* 8*d.*, and that they should wear their weapons all the way and go in company."

11 m. on l. Ensdon House.

11½ m., on rt. 1½ m. **Shrawardine.** Here is the site of an ancient *castle*, which at one time belonged to the FitzAlans, Earls of Arundel. In the Civil War it was garrisoned for the King by Col. Sir William Vaughan in 1644, but besieged by the Parliamentary forces, and surrendered in 3 days to Col. Hunt. It was then pulled down, and the stones carried off to repair the castle of Shrewsbury. Saxton's survey mentions a park here, and there is an extensive mere near the modern "Castle." In Shrawardine ch. there is a good old stone font.

12½ m. the Severn is crossed at *Montford Bridge.*

16 m. **Shrewsbury.**

ROUTE 12.

FROM WHITTINGTON JUNCT. TO WHITCHURCH JUNCT., BY ELLESMERE.

Rail.	Places.
	Whittington Junct.
5 m.	**Frankton**
7 m.	**Ellesmere**
11½ m.	**Bettisfield**
15 m.	**Fenn's Bank**
17 m.	**Whitchurch**

This line forms a connecting link between the Shrewsbury and Crewe and the Cambrian Rlys., and accommodates a considerable agricultural district in N. Shropshire.

1 m. *Fern Hill* (Capt. J. H. Lovett).

3 m. rt. **Halston,** the ancestral seat of the Mytton family, one of whom, John Mytton, Esq., as sheriff of the county, had the task of receiving into custody Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, surrendered by the treachery of Humphry Banastre, his steward. Of Jack Mytton, the Shropshire Nimrod and madcap of the earlier part of the century, the remembrance is probably dying out, as there was little in it worth preserving. It now belongs to C. H. Wright, Esq.

5 m. **Frankton** *Stat.* The *ch.* (Dec.) was built in 1858, from designs by *Haycock.*

6 m. l. **Hardwick Hall,** once the seat of the Kynastons; a good house, built in the time and taste of Queen Anne. In the grounds are many beautiful specimens of pines and firs. One of the ancestors of the Kynastons was noted in the time of Charles I. for his translation into Latin of Chaucer's "Troilus and Cressida."

7 m. **ELLESMERE** *Stat.*, ✠ placed on the W. bank of a lake of some 120 acres, whence its Saxon name Aelsmere was derived.

The town was originally held by Earl Roger de Montgomery, and afterwards by the Crown, who made frequent grants of it, and amongst others one to Prince Dafydd, formerly mentioned as executed at Shrewsbury. It afterwards passed into the hands of Lord Strange, and finally of the Egerton family. The late Lord Francis Leveson Gower, as one of the representatives of the last Egerton Duke of Bridgewater (the Canal Duke), took the name of Egerton and the title of Ellesmere.

Its prosperity depends almost entirely on its markets for corn and agricultural produce, which are resorted to by dealers from Liverpool and Chester, to supply the manufacturing districts. Malting is the chief business. The site of the Castle, of which no traces remain, is occupied, as at Denbigh, by a bowling green,

which embraces a fine view overlooking Chester and the Broxton Hills, Wrexham, and the Caergwrle heights, Castle Dinas Brân and the Berwyns, the Hill of Llanymynech, the Breidden, Pim Hill, Clee Hills, and the Wrekin. The view is said to extend into 9 counties.

The **Church** (restored) is a cruciform building with a square central tower and 2 chapels. The N. door is trans. Norm. The piscina in the chancel is in the E. wall, a very unusual position. There is a small window looking from the vestry on to the altar.

The S. or Oteley chapel has a good wooden roof, with the Stanley arms amongst the carvings thereon. There is a wooden screen above the arch separating this chapel from the aisle, and another beneath, on the upper part of which the slot for the rood can be seen. In this chapel is a much mutilated tomb with recumbent figures of Sir F. Kynaston and wife, 1590. Also a remarkable stone slab, now affixed to a pillar at the W. end, with a figure carved thereon of the time of Edward IV.

The **MERES** in the neighbourhood are 5 in number, and there are various pretty walks around them. That which is close to the town is the largest, and is known as **The Mere**. At its S. end is *Oteley Park*, the modern Elizabethan mansion of C. F. K. Mainwaring, Esq. "Otley" is mentioned by Saxton as imparked at the beginning of the 14th cent. It now contains 150 acres.

The tourist should follow the road beyond the end of the mere. Just before it forks there is on rt. a wicket gate leading to the canal towing path, which he should now take.

The **Ellesmere Canal**, one of Telford's great works, was considered, previously to the construction of railways, the grand engineering feat of the day.

"It consists of a series of navigations proceeding from the Dee, in the Vale of Llangollen. One branch passes northward, near the towns of Ellesmere, Whitchurch, Nantwich, and the city of Chester, to Ellesmere Port on the Mersey; another in a south-easterly direction, through the middle of Shropshire towards Shrewsbury on the Severn; and a third, in a south-westerly direction by the town of Oswestry, to the Montgomeryshire Canal, near Llanymynech; its whole extent, including the Chester Canal, incorporated with it, being about 112 miles. So great was the favour shown to the scheme at the first meeting held in 1790, that applications were made for four times the disposable number of shares."—*Smiles.*

Turning to the l. on the towing path and passing through a tunnel, he will come very shortly to **Blake Mere**, which, charmingly surrounded by trees, lies on the l. hand. About ½ m. farther is **Cole Mere**. At the fork of the road above mentioned the road on the rt. leads to **White Mere**, and that on the l. to **Newton Mere**.

[About 4 m. S. of Ellesmere is *Kenwick*, "a large and important park very conspicuously marked in Saxton's Maps of 1577. This appears to have belonged to Hagmond Abbey, but I have found no mention of the park till the year 1604, when William Penrhyn, writing on the 27th Jan. to Hugh Nanney, observes: 'Sr. Jevan Lloid spent at Kenwik parke fortye markes in takynge of six young Rascalls.'"—*Shirley.* Rascal deer were lean animals fit neither to hunt nor kill.]

10 m. **Welshampton Stat.**

The line enters Flintshire near

11½ m. **Bettisfield Stat.** A little to the N. is *Bettisfield Park*, an ancient house, the seat of the Right Hon. Baron Hanmer, containing a considerable library and many family portraits and pictures. Close by the house is one of the two divisions of the watershed that occur in Flintshire, the water flowing southward to the Severn, but N.E. and westward to the Dee. The line here, in fact, traverses a small portion of Flint. A little to the N. of Bettisfield is **Gredington**, the seat of Lord Kenyon, containing a library collected by the distinguished Chief Justice, founder of that family, and portraits of himself and of his contemporary, Lord Thurlow; and to the N. of this again is the village of **Hanmer**, mentioned

by Camden in his "Britannia." The *ch.* is of Tudor architecture, commenced to be rebuilt in the reign of Henry VII., after the destruction of the old one in the York and Lancaster wars. It was restored by Lord Hanmer at his own cost, and also endowed with the stipend of a minister. It contains some painted windows of modern glass by *Clayton* and *Bell*, a magnificent carved oak ceiling, and various monuments of the Kenyon and Hanmer families, one of whom was Sir Thomas Hanmer, Speaker of the House of Commons in the 18th cent. It is probable that Owain Glyndwr was married in this place, though in the ch. that was afterwards burnt. His wife was Margaret, daughter of Sir David Hanmer, Knt., one of the judges in the King's Bench in the reign of Richard II., resident here in his day, and ancestor of the present owner. In front of the ch. towards the S. extends one of the meres which give so much beauty to this part of the country.

The rly. now passes through **Fenn's Moss**, a large tract of peaty moorland, grown up on the site of one of the original woods cut down by King Edward I. to clear the country at the settlement of Wales. There is a certain sombre beauty in this tract of peat, the dark brown purplish hues of which contrast curiously with the light green foliage and silver stems of numerous small birch trees, which enliven it in the spring and summer. At the farther side of the Mere is

15 m. *Fenn's Bank Stat.*

17 m. the line crosses the border to

8 m. WHITCHURCH JUNCT. (Rte. 13).

ROUTE 13.

FROM SHREWSBURY TO NANTWICH, BY WEM AND WHITCHURCH.

Rail.	Places.
	Shrewsbury
4½ m.	Hadnall
7 m.	Yorton
13 m.	Wem
19 m.	Whitchurch

This is an important line in the through route between South Wales and the North. It very soon parts company with the Great Western Rly. and turns to the rt., running tolerably due N. for some distance.

3 m., pretty close to the line on l., is *Battlefield Ch.* (Rte. 8), and 4½ m. is **Hadnall** *Stat.* In the ch. (to rt.) is a monument to the first Lord Hill, the Commander-in-Chief of the British forces and the hero of Corunna, Talavera, Waterloo, and many other Peninsular battles. Near the stat. is *Hardwicke Grange* (T. J. Bibby, Esq.); and 2½ m. to the E. is the Norm. *ch.* of **Shawbury**, on the river Roden. The S. door is circular-headed, and there is a good Norm. doorway on the N. side. Several of the pillars have niches for figures. At the chancel arch the grooves for the rood screen can be seen, and the capitals of the pillars have here been shorn off to admit its timbers. One window is composed of old glass, and the reredos was carved and presented by Miss Corbet of Acton Reynald. The font, which is remarkably fine, is barrel-shaped, and has 5 rows of mouldings, including cable. It is said to be of pre-Conquest date, but is perhaps more probably E. Norm. Shawbury Park was the seat of Giles de Erdington, who had licence from Henry III. to make a saltory or deer-leap in it.

1 m. to the N. again is **Moreton Corbet**,* an old ruined, castellated mansion, which acquired its second name, as the possession of the Corbet family, to distinguish it from another place called Moreton Turet.

The house was begun on a very large scale by Sir Richard Corbet in 1606, and proceeded with by his brother, who admired the Puritans, and gave great protection to them in their hour of need. But the laws becoming very strict against them, he could no longer afford them shelter, which so roused the anger of one of them, that he gave vent to a prophecy that Moreton Corbet should never be finished, but should always remain a ruin. This has been verified since 1644, when the castle was garrisoned for the Parliament, and sustained great damage.

The house is of Tudor architecture with many classical details. It is of brick, cased with Grinshill stone, resting on a groundsill of red sandstone. On the string-course, alternating with the Tudor rose, lozenges, and filleted ox-skulls, are the elephant and castle and raven, badges of the Corbet family, which will also be seen on the tombs in the **Church**, which contains a hagioscope. The excellent tombs are to Robert and Elizabeth Corbet, 1573, and Richard and Margaret Corbet, 1566. The latter is a remarkably fine tomb.

The **Vicarage**, a pretty half-timbered house, dated 1652, stands close to the ch.

The tourist may rejoin the rly. at **Yorton** *Stat.*, 7 m., passing *Acton Reynald*, the beautiful seat of Sir W. O. Corbet, Bart., which lies very prettily on the slopes of **Grinshill**, a picturesque and conspicuous hill forming part of the Hawkstone range. At Clive, a village on the northern side, copper mining has been carried on with some success. Close to Yorton is *Sansaw*, the residence of F. Bibby, Esq., and halfway between Yorton and Baschurch Stat. (about 2½ m. l.) are the scanty remains of **Middle Castle**, built by the Lords Le Strange in the reign of Edward III. It was once the residence of Humphry Kynaston, surnamed the Wild, who, when made an outlaw, betook himself for shelter to Nescliff Rock. The *ch.* contains a *brass* to one of the Pettons, 1564.

13 m. **WEM.**☆ The town is a pleasantly situated, though dull, little place, dependent almost entirely on the agricultural population around. The buildings are more modern than in most Shropshire towns, owing to a great fire in 1677, which destroyed nearly the whole of it, at a cost of 23,000*l.*

Among the celebrities of Wem was Judge Jeffreys, who became the possessor of some property here, and was raised to the peerage by the title of Baron Wem. Wem took an active part in the Civil War, declaring for the Parliament, and forming a sort of garrison town, whence Gen. Mytton and his forces issued to ravage and destroy. In a skirmish between Lord Capel on the part of the Royalists and Sir William Brereton, the women distinguished themselves—

"The women of Wem and a few musketeers
Beat Lord Capel and all his cavaliers."

Wem was also the birthplace of Wycherley, the dramatist, in 1640, a name still to be found in this district, and author of "The Plaine Dealer;" and of John Ireland, author of "Illustrations of Hogarth," in 1786.

There is but little to see in the place. The *ch.* possesses no interest beyond a tower on which is an ancient figure. There is a free school, founded in the 17th cent. by Sir T. Adams, a native of the town and Lord Mayor of London in 1645, in which year his house was searched in expectation of finding Charles I. in it. He accompanied Gen. Monk to Breda, as Commissioner of the City of London, to congratulate Charles II. on his restoration. In 1660 he was created a baronet. He had very high impressions as to prerogative, and was therefore called "Prerogative Mayor." He gave up his mansion to endow the school, and also founded an Arabic Professorship at Cambridge, in 1669.

3 m. to the W. is *Loppington House* (Capt. T. A. M. Dickin), through the grounds of which the river Roden runs.

4½ m. from Wem is **HAWKSTONE,**☆ the seat of Viscount Hill, which for extent, natural diversified beauty, and landscape gardening, surpasses everything in Shropshire. The house, which is partly of the time of Queen Anne, is under the northern slope of the Hawkstone Hills, commanding a very fine view, in which a lake about 2 m. long is conspicuous. The rooms best worth visiting are the

library, the chapel, on the ceiling of which is a curious emblematical painting of Time putting Error to flight by the revelation of Truth, and the museum, in which is one of the most extensive collection of birds in the kingdom. From the rocky and broken character of the ground, great scope has been given for tunnels, sudden surprises, waterfalls, and other pretty conceits. Dr. Johnson visited Hawkstone in 1774, when he described the house as "magnificent," while the demesne was "a region abounding with striking scenes and terrific grandeur." Johnson considered that Hawkstone Park excelled Dovedale "in the extent of its prospects, the awfulness of its shades, the horrors of its precipices, the verdure of its hollows, and the loftiness of its rocks." Indeed, he said at Hawkstone "a walk is an adventure, the departure an escape." Amongst the attractions are **Red Castle**, a few ruined walls occupying a precipitous knoll, and the obelisk, which overlooks the greater portion of North Shropshire, and was erected in memory of Sir Rowland Hill, the first Protestant Lord Mayor of London. To say nothing of its legends, Red Castle (so called from the colour of its stone) was probably a fortified mound prior to Henry III.'s licence to Henry Lord Audley to build a castle there. It remained with the Audleys, one of whom was a hero of Poictiers, till after the reign of Henry VIII. A Rowland Hill of Hawkstone was imprisoned here for his loyalty by the Parliamentarians in the Civil War; and Sir Rowland Hill bought all the demesnes in 3 portions in 1737–56. Amongst the more remarkable of the ruins are the so-called "**Giant's Well**," which with a connecting passage, and the adjacent tower to the height of 40 ft., are hewn out of the solid rock. The Giant's Well is 10 ft. in diameter, and descends to a depth of at least 105 ft. The rubbish in it was cleared away in 1780, when "no water was found nor any aperture through which it was likely to have entered." A tower on the eft of the southern entrance; indications of a fosse in supplement of the natural barriers of the position; and the keep, on the E. side of the rock. An imitation arch or gateway disfigures the general *tout ensemble*. About a mile to the S. is an earthwork known as **Bury Walls**. Of it Camden says, "Here is a spot of ground where a small city once stood, the very ruins of which are almost extinct; but the Roman coyns that are found there, with such bricks as they used in building, are evidence of its antiquity and founders. The people affirm it to have been very famous in King Arthur's days." The Bury Walls (the Burgh) enclose 20 acres with a triple entrenchment; and Roman remains and relics, bricks, earthenware, spurs, and incised stones, supposed to be "milliaria," attest Roman occupation. The park is 1,200 acres in extent, and is said to have been disparked about 1770 and restored in 1830.

Few families have given to the service of their country so many men of note as the family of Hill; for, in addition to the Commander-in-Chief, his brother, Sir Noel Hill (died 1832), rose to high rank in the army. Sir Richard Hill, an ancestor, and M.P. for Salop in 1733, was a famous controversialist, and his language was so Scriptural and quaint that he was called the Scriptural Killigrew. His younger brother again, Rowland Hill, was the famous preacher, of whom there are so many pulpit anecdotes. If the visitor to Hawkstone does not wish to return to Wem, he can leave the park by the E. lodge and proceed to Hodnet Stat., 2 m. on the Market Drayton line (Rte. 7).

An excellent account of Hawkstone and the Hills is given in Lord Teignmouth's "Reminiscences of Past Years," c. v. vol. i. (published by D. Douglas, Edinburgh, 1878).

Quitting Wem Stat., the line runs northward, leaving the villages of **Edstaston** (the ch. of which has a noble Norm. doorway) and **Whixall** to the l. and *Prees* to the rt. **Prees** *Ch*, stands on a knoll of Lias formation. Jas. Fleetwood, Bp. of Worcester, was vicar here in 1638. The *Vicarage* (Rev. E. Addenbrooke). *Prees Hall* (V. F. J. Somerset, Esq.) Near Prees

[*H. B. Shrop.*]

is *Sandford* (Mrs. Sandford), the manor of which was granted to Thomas Sandford by William the Conqueror, to be held by the military tenure of supplying one horseman for the defence of Montgomery Bridge. Fuller remarks about Nicholas Sandford, sheriff of Shropshire, temp. Richard II., "The ancient name is still extant, at the same place in this county, in a worshipful equipage. Wellfare a clear token thereof; for in the list of such as compounded for their reputed delinquency in our late civil wars, I find Francis Sandford, Esq., paying 459*l.* for his composition." Leland also says, "Sandford dwelleth at Sandforde, wher is only his place, and a parke three miles south from Whitechurch." An occasional view on l. is offered of the Peckforton and Broxton Hills in Cheshire.

19 m. **WHITCHURCH**, ✠ junct. with the Ellesmere and Aberystwith line (Cambrian system). It is a thriving, busy country place, the metropolis of a considerable agricultural district, and possessing the usual institutions. There is little worth seeing but the **Church of St. Alkmond**, which, although of heavy Romanesque architecture outside, and characteristic of the date of its restoration, after having fallen in Queen Anne's reign in 1711, was rebuilt in the Grecian style in 1722, and contains a fine and lofty pinnacled tower, an apse, some good stained glass, and interesting monuments to members of the Talbot family, Earls of Shrewsbury. Here lies John, the first Earl, a Marshal of the Realm of France, killed at the battle of Bordeaux, 1453, "who was so renowned in France that no man in that kingdom dared to encounter him in single combat." His effigy, in a canopied tomb on the S. of the chancel, represents him in full armour, with the mantle of the Order of the Garter, and his feet resting on a hound or talbot. His bones were removed from France, and interred in the old ch. here. At the rebuilding, the urn containing his heart, embalmed, was discovered, and reinterred under the old stone in the S. porch. There is another, to John Talbot, S.T.P., rector of the parish and founder of the Grammar School (date 1550). These monuments have been restored: the former by the Countess Brownlow, a descendant; the latter by the present alumni of the school, in grateful memory of its founder.

Whitchurch retains none of those antiquities from which it derived its name of Album Monasterium or Blanc Minster; nor of its ancient castle, ruins of which were visible as late as 1760. The *Grammar School* has been restored from Elizabethan designs. Amongst the natives of the town were Dr. Bernard, the biographer of Abp. Usher, and Abraham Wheelock, a celebrated linguist.

Distances.—Malpas, 5½ m.; Combermere Abbey, 4½; Wrenbury, 5; Nantwich, 9; Shrewsbury, 19; Ellesmere, 11 m.

Passing on rt. 2 meres close to the rly., named Blake and Oss mere respectively, the traveller enters Cheshire. At Blakemere was once a park, mentioned by Leland. "From Whitechurch a mile and a half I cam by the pale of the large parke of Blackmer, longying to the Erle of Shrewsbiri, wherein is a very fair place or loge. The parke hath both red deere and falow. In the parke (as I herd say) be iii faire poles of the wich I saw by the pale the largest caullid Blakein, whereof the parke is named." There was another park at *Ightfield*, 3 or 4 m. S.E. of Whitchurch, where "Syr Richard Manoring, chefe of that name, dwellith, having a parke and plenty of woode about him." For remainder of route to Nantwich and Crewe, see Cheshire (Rte. 14).

ROUTE 14.

FROM WHITCHURCH TO STOCKPORT, BY NANTWICH, CREWE, AND ALDERLEY.

Rail.	Road.	Places.
		Whitchurch
5 m.		Wrenbury
9 m.		Nantwich
11 m.		Willaston
13 m.		Crewe
	2 m. (from Crewe)	Haslington
	5 m. ,, ,,	Sandbach
17 m.		,, Junct.
25 m.		Holmes Chapel
30½ m.		Chelford
33½ m.		Alderley
35½ m.		Wilmslow
37 m.		Handforth
39½ m.		Cheadle Hulme Junct.
42 m.		Stockport

Soon after leaving WHITCHURCH JUNCT. (Rte. 13), and passing the lakelets of Blakemere and Ossmere, both good localities for wildfowl, the rly. crosses the boundary between Shropshire and Cheshire, leaving on l. *Marbury Hall* (C. H. Poole, J.P.), very prettily situated, overlooking the mere and village of the same name. To the rt. is Combermere Abbey, to visit which the traveller will have to retrace his steps from

5 m. **Wrenbury** *Stat.* ✠ The *ch.* (temp. Henry VII.) has nave, side aisles, with clerestory, and chancel. It contains an oak roof, and some monuments by *Bacon* to the Cottons of Combermere, Mrs. Starkey of Wrenbury Hall, and to Mrs. Jennings, 1808. *Wrenbury Hall* (A. Starkey, J.P.) ·

Baddiley Hall, a little to the N., is a timber-and-plaster farmhouse, for many cents. the seat of the Malbons. It is about

2 m. to **Combermere Abbey**, the beautiful seat of Viscount Combermere, situated in the midst of very charming woods, and overlooking the mere of the same name. This is one of the most picturesque of the Cheshire meres, an irregular sheet of water, covering some 130 acres, and of great depth.

Leland mentions a circumstance respecting the subsidence of ground here, which almost looks like an attempt to explain the formation of the lake: "A mile from Combermere Abbey, in time of mind, sank a pease of a hill, having trees on hit, and after in that pitte sprang salt water, and the abbate ther began to make salt; but the men of the wichis componid with the abbay that ther should be no salt made. The pitte yet hath salte water, but much filthe is faullen into it." The "wich" mentioned here probably applies to the neighbouring town of Nantwich, the ch. of which belonged to the monastery of Combermere.

Of this monastery, founded in the 12th cent. by Hugh de Malbanc for Cistercian monks, no trace is left, but the present Gothic mansion is built on the site, and the library is believed to have been the refectory. It contains some interesting woodcarving, and the heraldic history of the family of Cotton, emblazoned on the walls and ceiling. In the armoury is a collection of weapons and trophies brought from India by Sir Stapleton Cotton, 1st Viscount Combermere (died 1865). The family of Cotton has been settled here for several generations, one of its earliest members, George Cotton, having been described in King's "Vale Royal" as "a man of singular accompt for wisdom, integrity, godlinesse, gentlenesse, facility, and all generous dispositions." At the Dissolution the abbey was given to George Cotton, and the family received its first honours from Charles II., who created Sir Robert Cotton a baronet. The peerage was granted in 1826 to the late Viscount, Sir Stapleton Cotton, as a mark of acknowledgment for his services in

India and the Peninsula. He was the friend and brother in arms of the Duke of Wellington, who frequently stayed here, and planted with his own hands an oak, which still thrives under his name.

Strangers wishing to obtain access to the grounds of Combermere should write to the agent; and trout-fishing can be had in a stream in the neighbourhood on application at the inn.

Immediately on leaving Wrenbury the line crosses the Weaver in a very early part of its course, and runs through a flat though pleasant dairy-farming district – passing l. *Dorfold Hall*, the seat of H. J. Tollemache, Esq., M.P. The estate had been in the possession of the Wilbrahams since the time of Elizabeth, but it was sold to the Tomkinson family in 1754. The house, which is approached from the high road by an avenue, is an interesting Elizabethan brick building of bays and gables; the drawing-room possesses a fine carved ceiling and chimney-piece, and there are other fine oak-panelled rooms. In the Civil War Dorfold was besieged twice, once in 1643 by Lord Capel, who held possession for one night only, and a little later on by Lord Byron. On rt. is *Shewbridge Hall*.

9 m. **Nantwich Junct.** with the Great Western Rly. from Wellington and Wolverhampton (Rte. 7). The traveller is now on the borders of the land of the "wiches," that give to the county of Cheshire those special features and characteristics derived from the salt supplies which are so bountifully yielded by Nature from the Triassic or New Red sandstone strata. Drayton thus speaks of them:

"The Nant Wyche and the North—whose either brynie well
For store and sorts of salts, maketh Weever to excel."

The town of **Nantwich** ☆ formerly produced more salt than all the Cheshire springs put together, and though much less is produced, the Old Byott spring, supposed to have been the first discovered, is still used for brine baths.

In Camden's time salt was the principal support of the town. "Nantwich, the first that is visited by the Wever, is called by the Welsh Hellath Wen, that is, White-salt-wich, because the whitest salt is made here; by the Latins, Vicus Malbanus, probably from William called Malbedeng and Malbanc, who had it given him upon the Norman conquest. There is but one salt pit (they call it the Brine pit), distant about 14 ft. from the river. From this Brine pit they convey salt water by wooden troughs into the houses adjoining, where there stand ready little barrels fixed in the ground, which they fill with that water; and at the notice of a bell, they presently make a fire under their leads, whereof they have six in every house for boiling the water. These are attended by certain women called Wallers, who with little wooden rakes draw the salt out of the bottom of them, and put it in baskets, out of which the liquor runs, but the salt remains and settles."

The idea of sanctity attached by the Germans to *salt* springs obtained here. On Ascension Day the old inhabitants sang a hymn of thanksgiving for the blessing of the Brine. A very ancient pit, called the Old Brine, was in the last cent. decked with boughs, flowers, and garlands on this festival.

A few houses still bear the date of the 16th cent. At the extremity of Hospital Street stands "Church's Mansion," a quaint timber-work edifice, said to have been a restoration in Queen Elizabeth's day. It has good oak-panelled rooms, and ceilings and cornices of plaster, and bears the legend: "Richarde Churche and Margerite his wyfe, Mai IIII. Thomas Cleese made this work, Anno Dni. MCCCCCLXXVIII. In the 18th year of our noble Queen Elezebeth."

In the square, at a house belonging to Mr. Lovatt, draper, are 2 or 3 finely panelled and ceiled rooms of much interest, though the date is not preserved.

Nantwich, although a good deal modernised and improved, still contains some narrow streets and Elizabethan timber houses, which give it a particularly quaint and old-fashioned air. The principal object of interest is the *ch.*, a very fine red sandstone cruciform building of Dec. and Perp. periods, with a central octagonal embattled tower, nave, side aisles,

transept, and chancel. The choir is vaulted with stone, and contains 25 stalls of carved oak, said to have been brought from Vale Royal Abbey; also a fine E. window, Trans. Perp. to Dec. There is a stone screen to the chancel, from which steps lead to a stone pulpit standing against the N.E. pillar of the tower. This is not used, the pulpit of oak (1601) being employed instead. The S. porch is vaulted, and has a parvise over it. There are monuments to the Wilbrahams and Minshalls.

In Hospital Street stood the Hospital of St. Nicholas, and there are still the almshouses founded by Sir Edmund Wright in 1638. At the end of the Welsh Row are others, founded by Sir Roger Wilbraham, 1613, rebuilt in 1870; and in Beam Street those erected in 1767, in accordance with the wishes of Sir T. Crewe (ob. 1633) and Sir J. Crewe (ob. 1711). The Free School in the ch.-yd. was the ancient hall of the Guild of Nantwich. The only fortress mentioned in Domesday as existing in this hundred was probably, according to Ormerod, built for the protection of the Earl of Mercia's mansion in the neighbouring village of Acton. It was this that induced the inhabitants to make a stand against the Roman army in its advance upon Chester. Of this castle of Wych Malbanke there is not the slightest trace. Nantwich was the birthplace of Thomas Harrison, the regicide, John Gerarde, the herbalist (1545), and Geoffrey Whitney, an Elizabethan poet, and author of the "Choice of Emblems."

Amongst the modern institutions are a middle-class grammar school, built and endowed by Mr. Wilbraham in 1858, and a townhall, opened in 1868.

The annals of the town record its severe sufferings by fire, which has twice nearly consumed it—in 1458 and 1583, when the estimated damage was 30,000*l.*, and a collection was ordered by Queen Elizabeth; and also by plague, which in 1604 carried off more than 500 people. In 1642 Nantwich made a show of resistance against the Royal authority, when Lord Grandison was sent against it, and soon caused the defensive works to be pulled down. Two years later, the neighbourhood was occupied by Lord Byron for the King, against whom Sir Thomas Fairfax and Sir William Brereton advanced. The Irish troops, who formed the greater part of the garrison, under-estimated the strength of the Parliamentary forces. "This made them keep their posts too long; and when they found it necessary to draw off, a little river, which divided their forces, on a sudden thaw, so much swelled above its banks that the Lord Byron, with the greatest part of the horse and the foot, which lay on one side of the town, were severed from the rest, and compelled to march four or five miles before he could join with the others, before which time the other part, being charged by Sir Thomas Fairfax on the one side, and from the town on the other, were broken, and all the chief officers forced to retire to Acton Church, where they were caught as in a trap; and the horse, by reason of the deep ways with the sudden thaw, and the narrow lanes and great hedges, not being able to relieve them, were compelled to yield themselves prisoners to those whom they so much despised two hours before. There were taken, besides, all the chief and considerable officers of foot, some 1,800 common soldiers, and all their cannons and carriages, the Lord Byron and his horse, and the rest of the foot, retiring to Chester."—*Clarendon.* The portrait of this Lord Byron, who is the poet's ancestor, is at Tabley. Byron is always quoting his ancestors who fought at Marston Moor, and this Sir John Byron married a sister of Sir P. Leicester's wife, and daughter of Lord Gerard. Her portrait (by Lely) is among the Hampton Court beauties.

Acton *Ch.*, 1½ m. on the Chester road, has a nave and aisles, chancel, tower, and chapel, belonging to the Halls of Dorfold and Woodhey. In the interior is a monument to Sir Richard Wilbraham (habited in plate armour) and his wife Elizabeth; also one to Sir William Mainwaring of Peover, under a Gothic canopy, on which are heads of ecclesiastics. In the S. wall is a piscina.

There are some Norm. details, notably in the base of the tower.

[3 m. W. of Acton is **Faddiley**, supposed to have been *Feath an-Leag*, where in 583 Ceawlin, King of the West Saxons, sustained a severe defeat at the hands of a British force led by Brocmael, chief of the district later known as Powys.]

In the neighbourhood of Nantwich are *Dorfold Hall* (H. J. Tollemache, Esq., M.P.), *Poole Hall* (F.

E. Massey, Esq.), *Rookery* (Baron Schroeder), *Reaseheath Hall* (E. T. D. Cotton-Jodrell, Esq., M.P.)

Rlys. from Nantwich to Whitchurch, 9 m.; Shrewsbury, 28 m.; Crewe, 4 m.; Market Drayton, 12 m.; Wellington, 29 m.

Distances to Middlewich, 10 m.; Northwich, 16 m.

11 m. **Willaston Stat.** During the Reformation, a family named Minshull lived at Willaston, one of whom, Elizabeth Minshull, became Milton's third wife.

The rly. joins the main line from London to the North at

13 m. **CREWE** ✠ JUNCT. Crewe is one of those extraordinary instances of a town of completely modern growth, brought to life and fostered entirely by the rly. system.

"Within the memory of many it was an estate called 'Oak Farm,' bought by a Nantwich attorney for 35*l.* an acre, and subsequently sold by him, when the land was wanted for railway purposes, at the profitable rate of 500*l.* an acre. When Mr. Locke traced the line of the Grand Junction, it passed through Oak Farm, and by an Act of Parliament the proprietor was paid for all land encroached on and used. Fortune's frolic continued to enrich him. The people of Chester would have a short cut to London, and their line came out at Crewe exactly across Oak Farm, whilst the Manchester men, equally impatient of delay, took another short cut in another direction, and their line also came out at Oak Farm. The result every railway traveller northward must have seen, as there are now no less than six great lines radiating from it." Indeed, the very name of the stat. owes itself to railway brevity, for the proper name of the parish is Church Coppenhall, but it was felt that it would be such a serious loss of time for a porter to shout out this long word that Crewe, the name of Lord Crewe's domain adjoining, was substituted.

The town itself is almost entirely made up of artisans and officials connected with the London and North-Western Rly., who possess here not only one of the largest junctions in the world, but an enormous establishment for making everything used on the rly. The interest of the visitor will altogether centre on the stat. and the rly. works. The latter may be viewed by visitors producing a letter of introduction addressed to the Locomotive Superintendent. The *stat.* is now a very fine one, having been very much enlarged and almost rebuilt in 1867. The platform is half a mile in length, and contains subsidiary platforms for the branch lines to the Potteries and Shrewsbury. The refreshment and waiting rooms are comfortable and convenient, and all the offices and arrangements for the traffic are as perfect as can be desired, and as are requisite for a stat. through which several hundreds of trains pass daily. From the main line between London and Carlisle are branches to Manchester, Chester for Holyhead, Derby and the Potteries, and Shrewsbury, so what with arrivals and departures there is very little repose indeed at Crewe Stat. The most striking and characteristic part of the day is from 12 to 2 P.M., during which time the fast Northern trains arrive, and are broken up into their several divisions, while the passengers dive into the refreshment rooms like rabbits into a warren.

Probably nothing gives the visitor such a good idea of the vast requirements of a large rly. as a visit to Crewe; the prodigious capital that is sunk there, the order and regularity with which every operation is conducted—and the skill and ingenuity with which machinery is brought to bear upon the very smallest portion of the details, are all things to be remembered and wondered at.

The *town*, although containing nothing but what is of yesterday's date, is well built and adapted for its class of residents. There are a handsome ch., schools, baths, and all the usual organisation of a place built from settled design and with one purpose.

The country round Crewe is very flat and uninteresting, except in the immediate neighbourhood of **Crewe**

Hall, the seat of Lord Crewe, the entrance to which is no great distance from the stat.

A fine avenue leads to the house, which was destroyed by fire in 1866, although it has risen again from its ashes, under the hands of *Edward Barry*.

The Crewes were settled here in the beginning of the 12th cent., but the elder branch of the family becoming extinct, the estate passed by marriage into the successive families of Praer and Foulshurst, the latter an esquire of Lord Audley, who was conspicuous for his gallantry at Poictiers. Sir Christopher Hatton then became possessor, and it afterwards reverted to the original owners in the person of Sir Randulph Crewe, Lord Chief Justice in the reign of James I. (1625-6). He, however, was dismissed from his office by Charles I. for giving his opinion against the legality of loans without the consent of Parliament. After his death the male line again failed; and the Offleys, who had acquired the estate by marriage, and in whose line it has since remained, took the name of Crewe. Sir Randulph died in 1645, aged 87, and was buried in the ch.-yd. of Barthomley Ch., Cheshire.

The original house was built by Inigo Jones, in the time of Sir Randulph Crewe, and possessed all the peculiarities of that age and architect. During the Civil War it underwent some damage by being garrisoned by the Parliamentary troops, but they were obliged to yield to Lord Byron, who, in his turn, was ejected and compelled to return to Nantwich. The restoration has been well carried out according to the original design, from an oil painting in Lord Crewe's possession, and it is now again, as it was before, one of the finest of our Jacobean or later Elizabethan mansions. It was built circ. 1636, half a cent. after Longleat, than which, though smaller, it has a more English feeling. The hall is of oak with a hammerbeam roof, and lighted by stained glass (*Clayton* and *Bell*) with heraldic devices of the Crewe family. The upper part of the hall is marked by the oriel and dais, and at the lower end is an elaborate screen of carved oak. Connected with this screen is the buttery-hatch, communicating with the offices, and it is surmised, from openings in the upper par of the screen, that above this passage was the Minstrels' Gallery, commanding the hall. The Carved Parlour—a very interesting room—has an elaborate wall-framing with bas-reliefs, and a fine alabaster chimney-piece. The picture gallery mantelpiece is decorated with marble busts (by *Weekes*) of Bp. Crewe and Sir Randulph Crewe. The mantelpiece in the drawing-room has a bas-relief from the "Tempest" by *Armstead*. The library has bas-reliefs of scenes from English poets and oak statuettes of Elizabethan celebrities. The whole of the N. side of the first floor is occupied by the usual long gallery, a charming room, well adapted for reception or for exercise. The chapel on the ground floor is decorated with stained glass by *Clayton* and *Bell*, and colouring by *Crace*. The arch at the E. end is of marble and alabaster, and the reredos is carved with heads of prophets by *Philip*. The architectural beauty as well as convenience of the staircase at Crewe is recognised by all architects. It is of highly worked and carved oak—a newel staircase built round a central well-hole. It occupies little space from wall to wall, being but 24 ft. square, while the height of the story is but 20 ft. The grounds are charmingly laid out, and are ornamented by a considerable lake. They were modernised some years ago by the elder Nesfield.

In the village of **Haslington** (nearly 3 m. on the road to Sandbach) is the moated site of the old mansion of the Vernons, which was a parallelogram in shape. Their later residence is now a farmhouse, partly of brick and partly of timber. **Coppenhall** *Ch.*, now included in the borough of Crewe, has recently been entirely rebuilt in red brick. In Ormerod's time "the floor was the bare clay, on which, for the convenience of kneeling, were placed circular lumps of wood chained to the seats."

From Crewe to Manchester the

country becomes a little more diversified, as soon as the river Wheelock is crossed, near

17 m. **Sandbach Junct.** (Rte. 22), whence the traveller can proceed to Northwich, the Salt Districts, and Mid-Cheshire generally. The little town of **Sandbach** ☆ is prettily situated on rather high ground, overlooking the Wheelock, and on the high road between the Potteries and the salt country.

In 1651 it was remarkable for a skirmish between the townsmen and Lesley's horse, in their flight from the battle of Worcester. The attack took place in a space to the N.W. of the ch., still called the Scotch Commons. A curious account of this affair was given in the "Mercurius Politicus" (No. 66), dated from Newcastle-under-Lyme, Sept. 6: "They so managed the business that, when the Scots offered to fire, they ran into their houses; and, as soon as that party was past which had the pistols and powder, they fell upon the remainder of the troops, and continued pealing and billing them, during the passage of all their horse."

The Grammar School, which was erected in 1849–50, is a good building on the Wheelock Road, with residence for the master, and has an endowment of 750*l.* per annum.

The *ch.* is a fine old building with a tower, under which there is an open way, nave, chancel, side aisles, and 2 chapels; one of which belongs to the manor of Wheelock, and the other to Bradwall Hall. The nave is somewhat narrow in proportion to its height, and has a fine carved oak roof, dated 1661. The font (1667) is ornamented with acanthus leaves, and has the following Greek inscription, which may be read both ways:

NIΨON ANOMHMA MH MONAN OΨIN

In the interior are monuments to the family of Powys of Wheelock. There is also a monument by G. F. Watts, R.A., to the Rev. T. Armitstead, vicar 1828–65.

The old *Hall*, now an inn, is a large timber-and-plaster building, with bay windows. It was built in 1656. It occupies the site of the ancient residence of the Crewe family.

The chief interest of the town, however, is in its two **Crosses**,* supposed to be of early Saxon date, and the equals of which, for size and beauty of sculpture, are only to be found in Ireland or Scotland. They are in the marketplace, on a platform of 2 slabs, at each angle of which are stone posts, with carvings of rude figures. On the E. side of the Great Cross is (1) a circle within which angels are adoring our Lord. Above this (2) are the Blessed Virgin and Child, with angels on either side. Above again (3) is our Saviour in a manger, an ox and ass, and an angel hovering over the Child. Above this is the Crucifixion. The lower part of the W. side is filled with (1) dragons with curiously interlaced wings. To this succeeds (2) a mutilated winged figure, and above (3) a winged and sitting figure, supposed to denote the appearance of Gabriel to Zacharias. (4) The Saviour bearing the Cross. (5) The Saviour drawn by a figure holding a rope. The S. side is principally ornamented with foliage. The N. side had apparently 11 figures, supposed to be Apostles; one, a fish with cloven tongue, is supposed to be the Spirit.

The smaller cross is ornamented in a similar manner.

From the frequency of the representation of our Saviour, a tradition exists that the crosses were erected to commemorate the return of Penda from Northumberland, on his missionary errand through the country. Previous to their final re-erection here, through the instrumentality of Mr. Ormerod, the historian of Cheshire, they had undergone great mutations—having been successively moved by Sir John Crewe to Utkinton, afterwards to Tarporley, and then to Oulton Park. They are certainly amongst the most interesting of the archæological remains of the county.

A little to the S. of the town is

Abbeyfield (E. S. Woolf, Esq.), and beyond it is the village of **Wheelock**, where there are saltworks. The old residence of the Bradwall family is supposed to have occupied a moated spot between the town and the stat. Rather more than 1 m. S.W. of Sandbach is the ecclesiastical district of Elworth, with a pretty little Anglo-Gothic ch., dedicated to St. Peter. Sandbach Stat. is situated here, and a large village has grown up round it. About a mile N.E. of Sandbach is St. John's Ch., Sandbach Heath, a very handsome E. Eng. building, consisting of nave, chancel, transepts, and tower, surmounted by an octagonal spire. It was built in 1860–1, and was looked upon by the late Sir G. G. Scott as his *chef-d'œuvre*.

At **Hassall**, 1½ m. S.E. of Wheelock, is the old moated residence of the Hassall family, seated here in the 14th and 15th cents. *Betchton Hall*, between Sandbach and Harecastle, is also a timber-and-plaster farmhouse.

Rly. to Crewe, 4 m.; Stockport, 21 m.; Middlewich, 5 m.; Northwich, 11 m.

Distances. — Nantwich, 9½ m.; Congleton, 7½ m.

Leaving Sandbach Stat., the rly. passes (rt.) *Bradwall Hall* to Church Hulme, or

25 m. **Holmes Chapel Stat.**, a village on l., prettily placed near the banks of the Dane. The *ch.* has a tower, nave, chancel, side aisles, and private chapels. It has been restd., and contains monuments to the Halls and others. Near here is *Saltersford Hall*, which is an agricultural and horticultural school belonging to the County Council.

Several places in the neighbourhood show traces of antiquity. *Cotton Hall*, 1 m. l. on road to Middlewich, is an old timber-and-plaster building, now a farmhouse. *Twemlow Hall* (E. Leigh, Esq., D.L.) to the N., the old seat of the Booths, is an old gabled house, with a moat; 1½ m. farther N., between Holmes Chapel and Chelford, is *Blackden Hall*, a half-timbered gabled house, now a farm. *Cranage*, 1½ m. N.W., is on the other side of the Dane, which was formerly crossed by a bridge built by Sir John Nedham, a judge in the reign of Henry VI. Brereton, Swetenham, Davenport, and Somerford Halls are all on the line of the road to Congleton (Rte. 22).

The rly. now crosses the Dane at a considerable height, passes rt. *Twemlow Hall*, and farther on, *Jodrell Hall* (E. Leigh, Esq., D.L.); l. *Blackden Hall*; rt. *Withington Hall* (E. Frank, Esq.), and *Astle Hall* (Lieut.-Col. G. Dixon).

30½ m. **Chelford** *Stat. Withington Hall*, 2 m. to the S., is approached by a fine avenue of timber, and the park is otherwise charmingly wooded. The old Hall has been superseded by the present mansion, the family of Baskervyle having been settled here since the reign of Henry III., and taken the additional name of Glegg, on succeeding by marriage to the estates of that family in Gayton-in-Wirral.

2 m. E. of Chelford, on the Macclesfield road, is **Capesthorne**, the beautiful seat of W. B. Bromley-Davenport, Esq., M.P.

Davenport Hall (Rte. 22) is the original residence of the Davenport family, Capesthorne not having come to them until 1748, when it was acquired in marriage with an heiress of John de Ward, in whose family it had been since Edward III.'s reign. Sir Humfrey Davenport was Chief Baron of the Exchequer in Charles I.'s time. One of the honours pertaining to the Davenports was the hereditary possession of the office of Magisterial Serjeants of the Hundred of Macclesfield, it being their duty to perambulate the forests of Macclesfield, Leek, and the Peak, and clear them of banditti. "There is now in the possession of the Capesthorne family a long roll, containing the names of the master robbers who were taken and beheaded during the tenures of Vivian, Roger, and Thomas de Davenport, and also of their companions, as well as of the fees paid to them in right of their serjeantcy. From this it appears that the fee for a master robber was 2 shillings and 1 salmon, and for his companions 12 pence each."—*Ormerod.*

Capesthorne Hall narrowly escaped the same fate as Crewe, the central tower having been gutted by fire in 1861.

The terrace and the conservatory are both particularly striking, the latter having been built from the designs of the late *Sir J. Paxton*. It contains some remarkable golden-haired acacias. The well-timbered grounds, through which the road from Stockport to Congleton runs, are ornamented with a fine sheet of water called *Reedsmere*, possessing a floating island about 1½ acre in size, which, in strong winds, is blown about here and there. *Aspidium Thelypteris* is found on Reedsmere.

A country legend accounts for the floating island by a story that a certain knight was jealous of his lady-love, and vowed not to look upon her face until the island moved on the face of the mere. But he fell sick and was nigh to death, when he was nursed back to health by the lady, to reward whose constancy a tremendous hurricane tore the island up by the roots.

To the N. of Capesthorne, separated by the high road between Knutsford and Macclesfield, is **Alderley Park**, the seat of Lord Stanley of Alderley. The history of the family of Stanley, as represented by the houses of Derby and Stanley of Alderley, is closely identified in many points with the history of England, although the creation of this particular peerage is modern, dating only from 1839, when Sir John Stanley was made Lord Stanley of Alderley. Alderley estate appears to have come into this branch of the family in 1420, by marriage, and, though it became forfeited to the Crown, was purchased again by the first baronet in the 17th cent. The park has some magnificent beech trees, and, like most Cheshire parks, has a large lake, known as Radnor Mere. The gardens are noted for their mulberry trees. This picturesque district is quite a nest of pleasant residences; for, in addition to Alderley and Capesthorne, there is *Birtles Hall* (Mrs. F. Hibbert), closely adjoining Alderley. The ch., erected 1840, was originally the private chapel of the Hall. *Henbury Hall* (W. W. Brocklehurst, Esq.), and, a little farther S., *Thorneycroft Hall* (C. E. Thorneycroft, Esq.) The visitor cannot have a prettier walk than from Chelford to Capesthorne—crossing the high road to Birtles Hall and ivy-covered ch.; and then to Alderley Stat., passing along the southern side of Alderley Edge.

33½ m. **Alderley** ✠ *Stat.* The *ch.* (restd. in 1855) contains a fine monument of Caen stone by *Westmacott* to the first Lord Stanley of Alderley, and to Dr. Stanley, Bp. of Norwich. The Rectory House will be viewed with interest as the birthplace of Arthur Penrhyn Stanley, afterwards Dean of Westminster, on Dec. 13, 1815. The proximity of this charming neighbourhood to the manufacturing districts of Stockport and Manchester has made it not only a favourite locality for a day's "outing," but also for residential purposes; and a number of handsome villas have been erected near the stat. of late years. The district known as **Alderley Edge**, but officially **Chorley**, is largely built over. The **Edge** itself is "a steep and beautifully curving cliff, of great elevation (650 ft.), and some 2 m. in length (reckoning to the out-of-sight portion that overlooks Bollington), with here and there great slants of green, rough, and projecting rocks, and innumerable fir trees, glorious oaks and bushes, with paths traversing the whole, and introducing us to deep and sequestered glades that in autumn are covered with ferns."—*L. Grindon.*

From its somewhat isolated position, the views over the great Cheshire plain are exceedingly fine, embracing on the N. the downs of Bowdon, the woods of Dunham, the chimneys of Stockport, and the hills that border the valley of the Goyt. On the E. are Macclesfield and the woods of Lyme, backed up by the blue ranges of Derbyshire. To the S. are Mow Cop and the salt country, and westward are Bucklow Hill, Delamere Forest, Beeston Rock and Castle, and the

bold escarpment of Frodsham, while the foreground is beautifully filled in with ch., hill, and hamlet—a true picture of English country scenery. The prettiest way to the top of the Beacon (which was erected in 1799, for the purposes of signalling in case of foreign invasion) is to take the Congleton road for a short distance, and turn up by a lane to the l., emerging on the Edge near the "Wizard" *Inn*, a small roadside hostelry on the Macclesfield road. It owes its name to a country legend that a farmer, riding to Macclesfield to sell his horse, was compelled by a wizard, who lived on the Edge, to bring it back and stall it with a number of others in the interior of the hill. The tale also tells that there are 999 horses constantly saddled for war within the hill.

Alderley Edge was, however, economically valuable as well as picturesque—for, situated in the angle between the Macclesfield road and the lane just mentioned are *Copper Mines*, which were worked in the Roman period and down to a recent date, but are now disused.

18½ m. **Wilmslow** ☆ *Stat.* The town is on the l. of the rly., which crosses the Bollin on a lofty viaduct. It is of recent growth, containing many residential houses, and is governed by an urban district council. The ch. (restd.) is a Perp. building, and contains the ancient oak rood-screen. The chancel has an oak roof, on which are the initials of H. Trafford, rector 1516–37. In the Trafford Chapel (N.) are 2 canopied altar-tombs, and other tombs and brasses. Here is also a remarkable oak chest hewn out of a single block of wood, which measures 4 ft. 2½ in. in length, 2 ft. 10 in. in width, and is 2 ft. deep. *Fulshaw Hall* (R. B. M. Lingard Monk, Esq., J.P.) is a good brick building with gables.

20 m. **Handforth** *Stat.* The ch. is modern. The old hall, formerly the residence of the Breretons, but now a farmhouse, has the following inscription over the doorway: "This haulle was buyleded in the yeare of Oure Lord God mccccclxii. by Uryan Brereton Knight whom maryed Margaret daughter and heare of Wyllyam Handforth of Handforth esq. who had issue 3 sonnes and 2 daughters." *Norcliffe Hall*, 2½ m. to the l. (H. R. Gregg, Esq.), has grounds which are beautifully laid out and exceedingly well situated on the banks of the Bollin, near its confluence with the little river Dean.

22½ m. **Cheadle Hulme Junct.** with the Macclesfield and Congleton line, the direct route between Manchester and the Potteries. Hence it is nearly 1 m. on rt. to **Bramhall**, till recently the ancient and interesting seat of Col. Davenport. It is more conveniently visited from Bramhall Stat. (Rte. 15).

On rt. the main line is joined by the Whaley Bridge and Buxton branch (Rte. 16), and a short tunnel is traversed to

25 m. *Stockport Junct.* (Rte. 19), the centre of a network of railways which radiate to Crewe, Macclesfield, Buxton, Manchester, and Ashton-under-Lyne. At a lower level the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire line from Godley Junct. passes through the town *en route* for Lymm, Warrington, and Liverpool.

STOCKPORT is a busy manufacturing town, an important seat of the cotton industry, constituted a county borough in 1888.

It is situated on the slopes of a narrow gorge, where the Tame and Goyt unite to form the Mersey, which here divides Cheshire and Lancashire, *à propos* of which Drayton, in speaking of Cheshire, calls the latter—

"Thy natural sister shee—and linkt unto thee so
That Lancashire along with Cheshire still doth goe."

The Mersey, which not many miles farther bears on her bosom half the commerce of the world, is here but a

narrow stream, although flowing in many places with considerable force.

The deep ravine through which the river flows has necessitated the crossing of the rly. to Manchester by an extraordinarily lofty *Viaduct*, the view from which over the tiers of streets rising one above the other is exceedingly curious. It is 108 ft. in height, 1,780 in length, and is supported by 22 semicircular arches, each of 63 ft. span. In addition to this monster bridge, the Mersey is crossed by the Wellington Bridge, which has 11 arches.

Few towns can show a more ancient pedigree than Stockport, it having been a central point on the Roman road leading from Manchester (Mancunium) to Buxton (Aquis). It is said to have possessed a Norm. castle, defended by Geoffrey de Constantine against Henry II., but it is singular that there is no mention of Stockport in Domesday. This castle afterwards became the property of the Despensers, and was held by the family of Stockport, or Stokeport, under them.

The Parliamentary troops held their quarters here for a time in 1645, and a cent. later it was visited by Prince Charles's army during its Derby campaign. An old custom which was in vogue here to a later date than usual was the cucking-stool, which was also in use at Chester as a punishment for bad brewers. The term *cucking-stool* is sometimes used interchangeably for *ducking-stool*, the resemblance of the names having apparently led to an idea that they meant the same thing. These stools were extensively used in the 16th and 17th cents., and were a piece of machinery for dropping *scolds*, or *rascally brewers*, into muddy or foul water; hence, according to some, cucking-stool is *i.q.* "*choking-stool.*"

St. Mary's Ch., rebuilt, with the exception of the chancel, in 1810, stands on the very highest part of the town, and is approached on all sides by very steep streets. It has a fine and prominent tower of red sandstone (Runcorn stone) with pinnacles and pierced battlements, nave with side aisles and chancel, and a beautiful Dec. E. window. The interior contains a piscina and 3 priests' stalls under cinquefoil arches. There are several other churches of more modern construction, *St. Peter's* (1768) and *St. Thomas's* (1825) being amongst the number. There are a market, built in 1861, large baths, a technical school, and other important public buildings. In St. Peter's Square there is a bronze statue by G. C. Adams of Richard Cobden, who represented Stockport from 1841–7. Vernon Park, which belongs to the borough, is on the N.E.; it has an extent of over 20 acres, and within it is a Free Museum. Edgeley Park, of smaller extent, was presented to the town by Messrs. T. and A. Sykes. The *Free School* was founded, in 1487, by the will of Sir Edmund Sha, or Shaw, brother of the Dr. Shaw, a native of Stockport, who preached at Paul's Cross respecting the illegitimacy of Edward IV.'s children. It was rebuilt (1830) by the Goldsmiths' Company, who have also endowed it with 290*l.* per annum.

As may be seen at a glance, nearly all the population is employed either directly or indirectly in the cotton trade, and many of the factories are of very large size. The early importance of Stockport commenced with the winding and throwing of silk; and it is said to have been the first place after Derby where silk mills were erected on the Italian principle.

Rlys. to Manchester, 6 m.; Crewe, 25; Cheadle, 2; Altrincham, 9½; Lymm, 15½; Warrington, 21; Whaley Bridge, 17; Buxton, 26; Macclesfield, 12; Ashton-under-Lyne, 7½; Hyde, 5 m.

Distances.—Marple, 4½ m.; Bramhall, 2½ m.; Romily, 3 m.

ROUTE 15.

FROM CREWE TO STOCKPORT, BY HARECASTLE, CONGLETON, AND MACCLESFIELD.

Rail.	Road.	Places.
		Crewe
4¾ m.		Radway Green
6½ m.		Alsager
9 m.		Harecastle Junct.
11 m.		Mow Cop
14 m.		Congleton
	2 m.	Astbury
	3 m.	Moreton
		Congleton
17 m.		Northrode Junct.
		Walk to Buxton, 16 m.
		Thence to Macclesfield, 12 m.
22 m.		Macclesfield
		[By M. S. and L. to
2½ m.		Bollington
8 m.		High Lane
10 m.		Rose Hill (Marple)]
		Macclesfield
2 m.		Prestbury
4 m.		Adlington
5¼ m.		Poynton
7½ m.		Bramhall

This route takes the traveller through the most picturesque portion of Cheshire, viâ the North Staffordshire Rly. Quitting Crewe, it turns sharp to the l., and skirts the grounds of *Crewe Hall* (Rte. 14), of which a passing glimpse (the only one) is thus obtained.

4¾ m. **Radway Green** *Stat.* 1½ m. rt. is **Barthomley** *ch.*, with nave, aisles, chancel, and tower. The door of the chancel is semicircular-headed with Norm. zigzag mouldings. In the ch. is a monumental slab to an ecclesiastic, probably Robert Fulleshurst, rector in 1475; also a monument to Sir Robert Fulleshurst, with figures of armed men, and females under Gothic niches. Sir Robert was one of Lord Audley's squires at the Battle of Poictiers. In this ch. was buried Sir Randulph Crewe, Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, 1625–6. In the Crewe chapel is an altar-tomb to Sibyl Marcia, wife of Robert, 2nd Baron Houghton (ob. 1887), the work of Sir E. Boehm. During the Civil War, Barthomley ch. was the scene of a very disgraceful massacre, committed by the Royalists on 20 of the inhabitants who fled thither for shelter.

6½ m. **Alsager** *Stat.*, beyond which on l. is **Lawton** *ch.*, which has a semicircular doorway on the S. side, with early Norm. moulding; close to it is the *Hall*. On rt. is *Linley Wood*, commanding a charming view of the Welsh mountains. To the S. of this is *Talk-o'-th'-Hill*, a well-known mining locality, and from this place to Silverdale and Newcastle-under-Lyme the whole district is full of collieries and ironworks. On the top of a hill in Staffordshire will be seen the lofty Wedgwood memorial.

9 m. **Harecastle Junct.**, whence the Macclesfield and the Potteries lines diverge, almost at the boundary of Staffordshire and Cheshire. The traveller, if he has perforce to wait for a train at Harecastle, can pleasantly pass the time by inspecting the canal works at the tunnel, which in its day was considered the *chef-d'œuvre* of Brindley, the great Staffordshire engineer. The **Grand Trunk Canal**, which connects the Trent and the Mersey, and in fact is the great waterway for all the English Midland counties, was unquestionably one of the most important works ever executed, and had an astonishing effect in civilising the rough manners of the Pottery folk,

and in opening up intercourse with the rest of the world. "The Harecastle tunnel, which is 2,880 yds. long, was constructed only 9 ft. wide and 12 ft. high. The most extensive ridge of country to be penetrated was at Harecastle, involving by far the most difficult works in the whole undertaking. This ridge is but a continuation of the high ground forming the backbone of England. The flat country of Cheshire, which looks almost as level as a bowling-green when viewed from the high ground near New Chapel, seems to form a deep bay in the land, its innermost point being immediately under the village of Harecastle. That Brindley was correct in determining to form his tunnel at this point has since been confirmed by the survey of Telford, who there constructed his parallel tunnel for the same canal, and still more recently by the engineers of the North Staffordshire Rly., who have also formed their rly. tunnel nearly parallel with the line of both canals."—*Smiles.* So great did the traffic become on the canal that there was one perpetual block at this tunnel, which from its low and narrow size could only be traversed by the laborious process of "legging"—viz. by the propulsion of the boatmen's legs against the roof of the tunnel; and as bargees were then, as now, not of the most patient or refined habits, terrible rows took place. It was determined therefore to make another tunnel, which Telford did, of a size sufficiently large to enable horses to work the traffic. The scene at the mouth of the tunnel, with Kidsgrove ch. at the back, is exceedingly wild and picturesque; in fact, the whole of this part of the district is old-world and quaint, and must have been charming before the establishment of ironworks and collieries. Close to the ch. is *Clough Hall* (Mrs. Kinnersley).

The rly. to Macclesfield keeps due N. to 11 m. **Mow Cop** *Stat.* Immediately on rt. is the long narrow ridge known as **Mow Cop**, or Mole Cop (Moel Coppe), which rises to the height of 1,100 ft., and commands an extensive and beautiful view over the plains of Cheshire and the high grounds of N. Stafford. The boundary between the two counties is carried along its summit, which towards the N. is called **Congleton Edge.** Geologically it consists of millstone grit, and forms a sort of spur thrown out from the great central backbone of England. The beds are extensively quarried, the stone being of a pretty streaked appearance and very durable. An excursion from Mow Cop Stat. to the summit of the hill, and afterwards to Congleton, visiting the old halls and churches in the neighbourhood, will give employment for a long summer's day—for this out-of-the-way corner of Cheshire is singularly full of interest to the antiquary.

A little to the l., and between the Stat. and Church Lawton, is the village of **Odd-Rode**, formerly celebrated "for its wood, its aerie for hawks, and its deer enclosures." *Rode Hall* (Gen. Sir R. Wilbraham, K.C.B.) has been the seat of the Wilbraham family for many generations.

Nearer to the stat. are the Halls of *Great Moreton* (Mrs. Ackers) and *Little Moreton.*

Great Moreton Hall was the seat of the family of that name, which terminated in the reign of Henry IV., with an heiress who married into the Norfolk family of Bellot. Lysons speaks of it as a fine timber-and-plaster building, with gables, of the early part of the 17th cent. An old cross, like the one at Lymm, stood in front of the house, but the former was removed in 1806, and the house has been modernised and adorned with a central tower.

LITTLE MORETON,* commonly known as the Old Hall, has always been in possession of the Moreton family from a very early date, and is even now one of the finest specimens of the old-fashioned Cheshire timbered hall

in existence, though only 3 sides are remaining. It dates approximately from 1540. It is surrounded by a moat, and approached by a bridge on the S. side, entering the court by a fine old gateway, above which are sleeping-rooms, and at the top a very curious gallery, 68 ft. by 12 ft. This retains some good oak carving and stained glass. The sides of the courtyard are formed of bay windows, and the roof is of oak, of square compartments filled with quatrefoils. Over the W. window is a figure of Fortune resting under a wheel, with the motto "Qui modo scandit corruet statim," and at the E. end is one with a globe, entitled "The Speare of Destiny, whose rule is knowledge." The dining-hall contains, over the mantelpiece, the arms of Elizabeth, upon which is founded a story that she once paid Moreton a visit, but there is no authority for this. Over the upper windows is the motto :—

"God is Al in Al Thing

"This windows whire made by William Moreton in the Yeare of oure Lorde MDLIX."

and over the lower,

"Richard Dale, Carpeder, made this window by the Grac' of God."

The windows also contain the arms of Brereton and Moreton, and some of them have inscriptions cut by a diamond. One of these reads, "Margaret Moreton, Aug. 3, 1649." The E. side, which is the oldest, contains the chapel, which is divided by a screen into 2 parts, of which the ante-chapel is the largest. Its whole length is only 30 ft., and the ceiling is very low. At the E. it is lighted by a painted window, and black-letter texts adorn the walls. On one of the window panes was formerly cut the following verse :

"Men can noe more knowe weoman's mynde by teares
Than by her shaddow judge what clothes she weares."

The Old Hall is well worth a visit, though it is sad to see so noble an old mansion so neglected. It is now inhabited by working people.

"Within the moat, at the N.W. angle, is a circular mound, which probably once supported a tower of the earlier mansion—which, from this circumstance, we should infer was probably fortified—and at the S.E. angle is another circular mound of much larger dimensions, situated outside the present moat, but apparently included originally within trenches communicating with it."—*Ormerod.*

The neighbouring manor of Rode was formerly divided between the family of that name and the Moretons, which often gave rise to differences as to precedency and other matters between the two houses. An arbitration made by William Brereton, in the reign of Henry VIII., provided for the settlement of their disputes by arranging that "whichever of the said gentlemen may dispend in lands by title of inheritance, 10 mark, or above, more than the other, he shall have the pre-eminence of sitting in the church and in going in procession, and with all other like cases in that behalf."

From Moreton Hall it is only 3 m. to Congleton.

14 m. **Congleton Junct.**, 1 m. from the town. Here the Stoke-upon-Trent line, viâ Biddulph, falls in. **Congleton**, ✡ called Cogleton in Domesday Book, is a pleasant, thriving little town, situated on the Dane, and near the foot of Congleton Edge and the adjoining Cloud Hill. "Cloud End" is 1,190 ft., Mow Cop 1,091 ft. above the level of the sea.

It boasts of considerable antiquity, having had charters granted it by Henry de Lacy, Henry VIII., and James I. The mayor and town clerk used to have the power of taking recognisance of debts and issuing executions thereon—a power conferred on them by the Statute of Acton Burnell. One of these mayors, in 1637, was John Bradshaw, President of the Court that tried Charles I., he having originally been apprenticed to an attorney in the town. Congleton was a great sufferer by the plague in the 17th cent. The first silk-mill was established here in 1752, by a Mr. John Clayton, of Stockport, and the trade has ever since taken root, although at one time the place was principally celebrated for the manufacture of gloves and tag leather laces, known as Congleton Points.

There are still some old-timbered houses to be seen, but the ancient

chapel which formerly stood near the bridge has been superseded by a newer one. The Swan and Lion Inn is an old timbered house, the great porch of which, having a room over it, rests on 2 stone pillars. *St. Peter's Ch.* is very plain, but *St. James's*, built in 1848, is a handsome ch. of trans. from E. Eng. to Dec. style. It contains a richly carved oak pulpit dated 1600. There is a Townhall, and the municipal mace and other insignia are very fine. The mace is inscribed, "The Freedom of England by God's Blessing Restored to C. R. 1661."

The Public Park, about 25 acres in size, is crossed by the river Dane. The chief manufacture is that of silk, for which and for fustian cutting and towel weaving there are extensive factories.

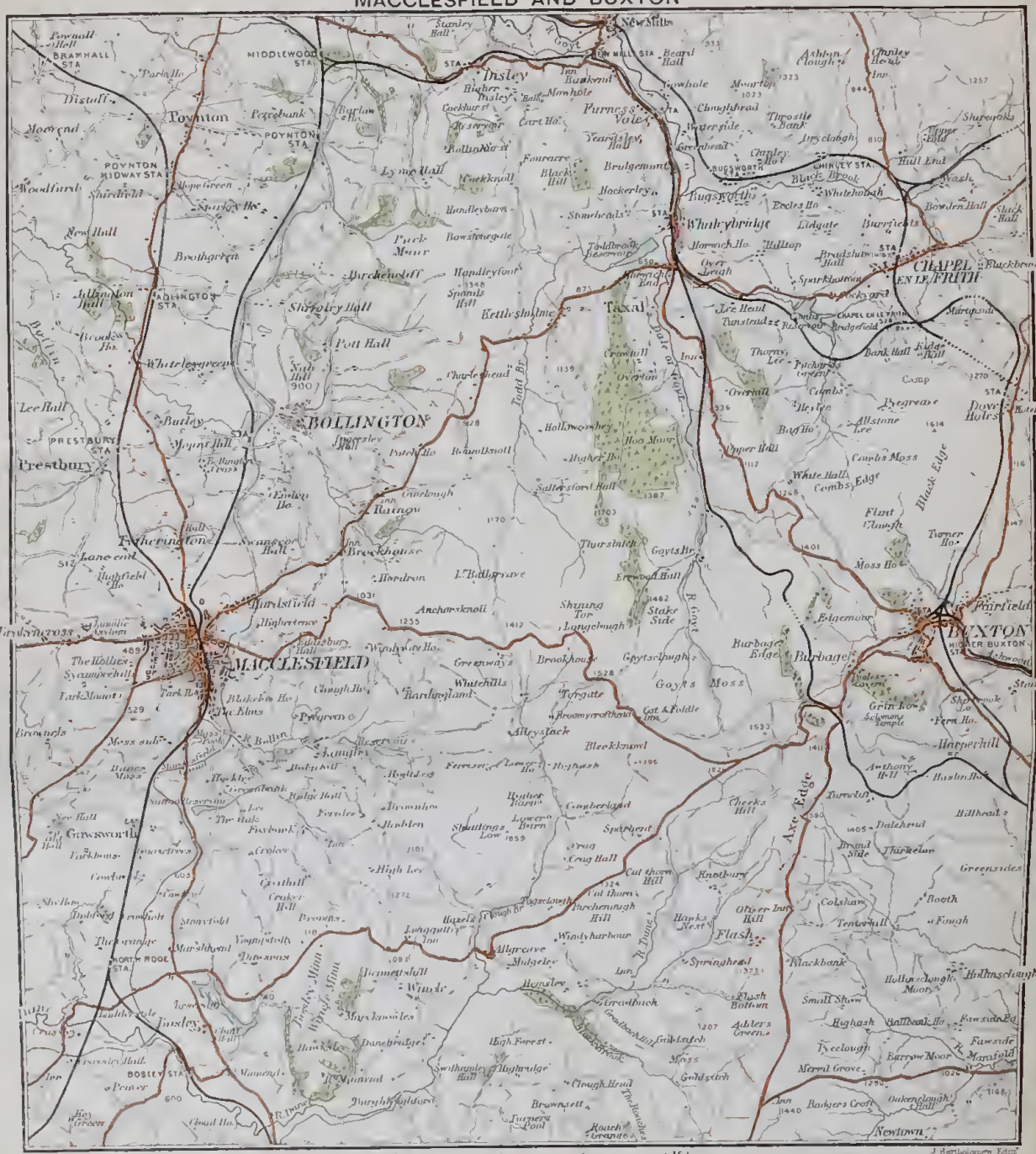
The whole of the neighbourhood is replete with picturesque country and interesting churches and halls, and the visitor will find plenty of excursions by rail or on foot, such as to Astbury ch., 2 m.; Little Moreton Hall, 3 m.; Biddulph Hall and gardens, 3 m. [Staffordshire]; Rudyard Reservoir, 6 m.; Mow Cop, 3 m. In the neighbourhood are *Daisy Bank* (D. Bradwell, Esq.), *Somerford Booths Hall* (C. W. Swetenham, Esq.), and *Somerford Hall* (Sir C. W. Shakerley, Bart.)

Rlys. to Stoke-upon-Trent, 14 m.; Crewe, 14 m.; Macclesfield, 8 m.

2 m. to the S. is **Astbury**, the mother ch. of Congleton, and one of the finest country churches in Cheshire. The parish was the seat of the Lathoms of Astbury, descended from Robert de Lathom, the founder of Burscough Abbey in Edward II.'s time. The **Church** * has a nave, chancel, side aisles of equal length with the chancel, clerestory, a W. porch of the same height as the centre aisle of the nave, a S. porch, and a tower with a lofty spire at the N.W. angle. Notice the gargoyles all round the ch., which are exceedingly grotesque. The nave is separated from the aisles by 5 pointed arches on each side, springing from clustered pillars of Mow Cop millstone grit. There are 2 chapels at the end of the aisles. The one on the N., which belongs to the Wilbrahams, proprietors of Odd-Rode, is now the vestry. There are a few fragments of the original stained glass in some of the clerestory windows. The aisles are lighted by Pointed windows with quatrefoils. The other windows are Perp. The E. window is a handsome 7-light window with stained glass, in memory of the Rev. Offley Crewe, a former vicar. The chancel is separated from the nave by a fine carved oak screen, and there were formerly a rood-loft and some carved oak stalls. On the N. of the nave is a nearly obliterated fresco, the only one left of several that formerly adorned the walls. The fine roof, too, is of carved oak, decorated with foliage, and of the date 1616–17. The aisle roofs are also good; that of the N. was restd. 1701. The date of the ch. generally is the early part of the 17th cent. The monuments are very interesting, especially one—now at the E. end of the N. aisle—a recumbent female figure, in voluminous robes, of Dame Mary Egerton of Oulton, d. 1599; and another, at E. end of S. aisle, a 14th-cent. effigy of a recumbent knight of the Cheshire family of Davenport of Davenport. But the most curious effigies are in the ch.-yd., which contains 4 recumbent figures in red sandstone, much decayed. The one on the N. is an ecclesiastic, on the S. an armed knight, and the 2 middle ones are those of a knight and his lady, reposing under an arch with crocketed pinnacles. According to the inscription within the arch these last are Randulph Brereton and his wife Ada, who was a daughter of Richard, Earl of Huntingdon. But the arms admit of dispute. See "N. and Q." 5th S. xi. 12.

2 m. to the N. of Congleton is

MACCLESFIELD AND BUXTON



Eaton Hall, the seat of Lieutenan Colonel J. C. Antrobus, J.P., a moder Elizabethan building, commandin beautiful views of the Staffordshire hills.

Quitting Congleton Stat., there is a fine view, at the junct. of the 2 rlys. of Congleton Edge and **Cloud End**, a very striking feature in the landscape of this district. This hill is nearly 1,200 ft. in height; from its summit an extensive view can be obtained.

15 m. l. **Buglawton Hall** (Mrs. Firmin) was the ancient seat of the Touchets, of whom Sir John Touchet, in the reign of Edward III., was a distinguished warrior at the siege of Rheims. He was killed in the engagement with the Spanish fleet at Rochelle. A little farther on is *Crossley*, a farmhouse which gave a name to the family of Crossleigh as far back as King John.

The Dane is here crossed by a fine viaduct of brick, and a *junct.* soon formed with the Leek and Uttoxeter branch at

17 m. *North Rode.* [From this point the border separating Cheshire and Staffordshire, which has kept pretty close to the line all the way from Harecastle, now trends to the rt., extending to within 3 or 4 m. of Buxton. *Axe Edge* is really the eastern boundary, and the 2 rivers Dane and Goyt, which rise within a few yards of each other, but which flow respectively N. and S., embrace in their course, the one to Congleton, the other to New Mills, a large extent of country quite worthy of a visit. The district may be pretty well explored in a walk from North Rode Stat. to Buxton (between 15 and 16 m.), returning from Buxton to Macclesfield by the "Cat and Fiddle," and by this means the visitor will obtain the scenery and characteristics of N. and S.]

½ m. from the stat. the road falls into the high-road between Congleton and Buxton, which again is crossed by the Macclesfield and Leek road, Cloud End being a conspicuous feature in the S. 1½ m. the road skirts the N. side of **Bosley Reservoir**, and takes to the hills, descending occasionally steep little valleys locally known as "cloughs." Leaving the eminence of **Bosley Minn** to the rt., a short cut comes in from Macclesfield at Clulow Cross. To the rt., 1½ m., is **Wincle**, a village so retired that it is recorded in Bp. Gastrell's notes that the inhabitants paid what they pleased for preaching, "when there is any, but there has been none for half a year past, 1717." The monks of Combermere Abbey had a grange here. The village consists chiefly of a number of scattered farms placed in the midst of about the most picturesque portion of Cheshire. The *ch.* is modern. *Bogstones* (Miss Brocklehurst) is an interesting stone dwelling. Farther on (l.) is **Shutling's Low**, one of the principal hills of the district, with characteristic conical summit. It is composed of millstone grit, although the limestone crops out beneath, and it is the centre of a number of anticlinal lines which have caused great disturbance to the strata in the neighbourhood. At Hallgreaves gate take the road to the l. and commence the ascent of the moors that form the western slopes of *Axe Edge*, over which the traveller must pass on his way to Buxton. Axe Edge (1,810 ft.) is one of the highest hills in Derbyshire (although the boundary line passes close on its western side), and is still in its primitive condition of heather, moss, and bilberry, affording a good cover for the grouse.

The view from the summit is very remarkable, and embraces a large extent of the high table districts of Derbyshire and Cheshire, in the direction of Macclesfield. Four rivers have their fountain-heads in Axe Edge—viz. the Dove and the Wye, flowing eastward, and the Dane and the Goyt, towards the Irish Sea. The northern extremity of the Edge is called Ladman's Low, and round it

the road winds sharply and steeply to

14 m. *Buxton.—Hdbk. for Derbyshire.*

From Buxton the return to Macclesfield is close upon 12 m. Retrace the road over Axe Edge, and on the W. side of it take the road to rt., overlooking *Goyt's Clough*, the wild and picturesque dell through which the infant Goyt flows—

"From hence he getteth Goyte down from his Peakish springe,"—

to 5 m. the *Cat and Fiddle*, a well-known moorland inn, which has afforded welcome shelter to many a weather-beaten pedestrian. Thence the road winds round the Tors and over the high grounds of the Macclesfield Forest, that wild bit of country over which, in early days, the Davenport family had jurisdiction as forester magistrates, whose duty it was to scour the district at intervals, and capture and then execute the banditti who infested it (Rte. 14).

In later times the district was inhabited by a different sort of robbers, who depended for their livelihood a good deal upon the peculiar trade of Macclesfield. Dr. Aiken thus relates: "In the wild country between Buxton, Leek, and Macclesfield lived a set of pedestrian chapmen, who hawked about buttons from Macclesfield, ribbons made at Leek, and handkerchiefs with small wares from Manchester. These pedlars were known on the roads they travelled by the appellation of Flashmen, and frequented farmhouses and fairs, having a sort of slang or cant dialect. At first they paid ready money for their goods till they acquired credit, which they were sure to extend till there was no more to be had, when they dropped their connections without paying, and found new ones. They long went on thus, enclosing the common where they dwelt, for a trifling payment, and building cottages, till they began to have farms, which they improved from the gains of their credit, without troubling themselves about payment, since no bailiff for a long time attempted to serve a writ there. At length, a resolute officer, a native of the district, ventured to arrest several of them, when, their credit being destroyed, they changed the wandering life of pedlars for the settled care of their farms; but, as these were held by no leases, they were left at the mercy of the lords of the soil, the Harpur family, who made them pay for their impositions on others. Another set of pedestrians was called Broken Cross Gang, from a place of that name between Macclesfield and Congleton. These associated with Flashmen at fairs, playing with thimbles and buttons, like jugglers with cups and balls, and enticing the people to lose their money by gambling; but they at length took to the kindred trades of robbing and picking pockets, till at last the gang was broken up by the hands of justice."

When the pedestrian reaches a farmhouse, called the Lache, about 2½ m. from the "Cat and Fiddle," he may plunge into the hollow under Shutling's Low, by a lane on the rt., and then ascend the hill to *Forest Chapel*. Follow the lane to Macclesfield past the reservoirs formed by the Bollin, and through the village of *Langley*. It is a most charming bit of country, full of varied and changing views. From the Lache to Macclesfield is about 6 m. *Sutton Hall* (Miss Sutton) at Sutton, a suburb of Macclesfield, was an old residence of the Earl of Fauconberg, whose daughter married the Duke of Norfolk, and subsequently the Earl of Lucan. It was formerly possessed by Sir Richard Sutton, Governor of the Inner Temple, who was knighted by Henry VIII. Licence to crenelate was previously given by Henry IV. to the abbots of St. Werburg, Chester. *Cophurst*, in this neighbourhood, was the ancient property of the Holinsheads, whose male line terminated in Ralph (or Raphael) Holinshed, the chronicler.

3 m. to the N.W. of North Rode Stat. is **Gawsworth**. The *ch.* (restd.) is Perp. and contains a number of interesting monuments, including an altar-tomb with effigy in plate armour to Francis Fytton; below this is a skeleton in marble, and others to the 1st and 2nd Fytton baronets, both Sir Edwards, ob. 1619 and 1643 respectively. The old *Hall* (Lady Philippa Waithman), which is equally old-fashioned, belongs to the Earl of Harrington. Behind the ch. is one of the few old tilting-grounds remaining in England. Near the school are the remains of an ancient cross, and near the ch. are four old fishponds.

From North Rode, the rly., leaving

Gawsworth to the l., traverses a bog, known as *Dane's Moss*, which was once the locale of a series of experiments as to the feasibility of compressing peat, so as to make it practicable, both in material and price, instead of coal.

22 m. **MACCLESFIELD** ✠ is a place of great business and importance, and the number of factories that meet the eye sufficiently betokens the large population that inhabits it. It is built on the banks of the little river Bollin, and contains some good streets, many of them being very steep.

It originally possessed 3 gates, viz. the Chester Gate, Jordan Gate, and Wall Gate. It was first incorporated by charter, granted in 1261 by the Earl of Chester, son of Henry III., by which the burgesses were compelled to grind and bake at the King's mill and oven, paying a toll of one shilling each. That Macclesfield was a loyal town is shown by a curious document, preserved in the corporation records, praying Henry VII. that the town might not lose its charter in consequence of not being able to make up the prescribed number of aldermen, from the heavy slaughter of their townsmen at Bosworth Field. During the Civil Wars Macclesfield was besieged and taken by the Parliamentary army under Sir William Brereton, who held the town in his turn against Sir Thomas Acton, who battered the spire of St. Michael's with his cannon. In 1745 the young Chevalier slept here when he passed through *en route* for Derby, with his army of 5,000 men. The town afforded the title of Earl to the Gerard family, a title which became extinct in 1702, on the death of the 3rd earl. In 1721 Baron Parker, Lord Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, was created earl, and the present holder of the title is the 7th of this family. A charter was granted by Randulph, Earl of Chester, in the early part of the 13th cent. This was confirmed by Edward III. in 1334, and subsequent charters were granted by Richard II. (1390), Edward IV. (1465), Elizabeth (1564), and Charles II. (1678 and 1684).

St. Michael's Church * is a fine building, founded in 1278 by Edward I. and his Queen Eleanor, but modernised and spoilt in the middle of the last cent. It contains a stained glass E. window and some altar-tombs, one of which has recumbent figures of a knight and lady, in memory of Sir John Savage and his wife Catherine. Another is a knight in plate armour, possibly one of the Downes of Sutton. The most interesting portion of the ch. is a chapel on the S. side belonging to the Leghs of Lyme. It contains a *brass*, with the following inscription:

"Here lyeth the body of Perkin a Legh
That for King Richard the death did die;
Betray'd for righteousness;
And the bones of Sir Peers his sone,
That with King Henrie the fift did wonne
In Paris."

Adjoining the ch. and on its S. side is the **Rivers** or **Savage Chapel**, entered by a tower of 3 stages, with a fine old gateway ornamented with shields and armorial bearings. In the chapel are the following monuments: E., Thomas Savage, 3rd Earl Rivers (ob. 1694), with his 2 wives. N., within arches, (1) Sir John Savage, who fought at Bosworth Field, and was killed at the siege of Boulogne, 1492; (2) his son Sir John Savage, ob. 1527. S. at E. end, under a late Perp. arch, an altar-tomb with recumbent alabaster effigies of Sir John Savage, ob. 1527 (son of the last-mentioned Sir John), and his wife Elizabeth (Somerset). At the back of this tomb is arcading with figures, and the front of the altar is similarly adorned. W., an altar-tomb to Sir John Savage (son of the last mentioned), ob. 1597, and Elizabeth (Manners), his wife. *Christ Ch.*, built in the last cent., contains some fine memorial windows to the founder, Mr. Roe, and others by *Wailes* and *Bell*; also a monument, by *Bacon*, to Mr. Roe, who built the first silk-mill in Macclesfield. The organ is said to have been used by Handel, and the pulpit by John Wesley. It was one of the last Church of England pulpits in which he preached. There are several other modern churches.

Macclesfield contains some interesting modern buildings, viz. the *Roman Catholic Chapel*, in the Chester Road, a fine E. Eng. building (W. Pugin, archt.), with some good sculpture and stained glass by *Wailes* and *Hardman*. The *Grammar School* is on high ground to the

N. of the town, and forms a picturesque group of irregular E. Eng. outline. It was founded in 1502 by Sir J. Percival, Lord Mayor of London, and a native of Macclesfield, and re-endowed by Edward VI. The seal of the Grammar School is peculiar, representing a venerable pedagogue holding a book and a birch rod. Near it is the new *Infirmary*. In the Marketplace is a fine new Townhall, built of Kerridge stone. The corporation possess 2 interesting maces. The *Park*, on the Prestbury Road, is charmingly laid out with all the appliances for amusement, and has lovely views looking towards the hills. Adjoining it is the *Cemetery*, equally pretty and attractive. The *County Lunatic Asylum* is near this.

Macclesfield formerly held its reputation by the manufacture of its buttons, and in order that the trade should be protected to the utmost extent, an Act was passed declaring it illegal to wear button-moulds covered with the same stuff as the garment. Like most of these monopolies, the Act was soon evaded by the use of metal and horn buttons; so that the Macclesfield traders took up the more legitimate manufacture of silk in all its various forms. It is now the chief seat in England of all the forms of silk manufacture, including ribbons, sarcenets, plain and figured *gros de Naples*, satin, silk velvets, vestings, and silk handkerchiefs. The first silk-mill was opened by Mr. Charles Roe in 1756, and the manufacture of broad silks was first undertaken in 1790 by Messrs. Leigh & Voce.

Excursions can be made to Alderley, 5 m.; Prestbury, 2; Bramhall, 9; Gawsworth, 3½; Congleton, 8; Buxton, 12 m.

In the close neighbourhood of the town are *Park House*, *Titherington Hall* (H. Charlton, Esq.), *Upton Priory* (C. H. Beck, Esq.)

[Should the traveller wish, he can travel by the M. S. & L. line, which connects Macclesfield with Woodley Junct., passing through a very picturesque country, and affording the pedestrian his best approaches to Lyme Park and Marple Hall.

2½ m. **Bollington Stat.** is finely placed at the end of a ridge of hills, where is a conical stone tower, a land boundary called White Nancy, from which a good view can be obtained. There are several cotton mills in the village. 4 m. to the E., in the mountain district, is the little moorland village of *Jenkin Chapel* and *Saltersford Hall*. It still gives the title of Baron Saltersford to the Earl of Courtown.

1 m. to the N. is **Pott Shrigley.** The *Hall* (Mrs. Lowther), formerly the seat of the Downes, one of the eight subordinate Foresters of Macclesfield Forest. The ch. is a fine old Gothic building, and more like a collegiate chapel than a country ch. The rly. then skirts the broken and varied scenery of *Lyme Park* (Rte. 16), has a small stat. at Poynton, and soon crosses the Buxton and Stockport (L. & N. W.) Rly.

8 m. **High Lane** *Stat.*, whence it is a 4 m. walk to Lyme. Near this is supposed to have been the birthplace of John Bradshaw, the regicide, 1602, but more probably of his father or grandfather.

10 m. **Rose Hill**, is the stat. for Marple, and the nearest point from which to reach Marple Hall (the seat of J. H. B. Isherwood, described in Rte. 17, *q.v.*), which lies ½ m. to the left, and the line soon runs parallel with the Midland Rly. from Buxton, which it joins at *Woodley Junct.*]

Emerging from the tunnel at the N. end of Macclesfield, the rly. leaves Titherington on rt., and arrives at

24 m. **Prestbury** *Stat.* The *ch.*, formerly the parish ch. of Macclesfield, is of different styles, from as early as 1220 to 1741. The last restoration (Sir G. Scott) was 1879–1885. During this, parts of a Saxon cross were found embedded in the

wall. The parish records contain some curious extracts as to the collection of "Church-ley" or "cerage" money ("cerge" in Anglo-Norm. meaning wax-candle). In 1736 payment was made to a man "for tearing round the ch. to frighten the jackdaws," and between 1709 and 1713 the churchwardens paid for the killing of 81 foxes and 1,964 hedgehogs. In the ch.-yd. is an old Norm. chapel (restd. 1892).

Sir Richard Sutton, founder of Brasenose College, was born here in 1511.

It is a charming walk of over 4 m. to Alderley Stat. (Rte. 14), by *Mottram St. Andrew's* Common. To the N. of it is *Mottram Hall* (Mrs. Wright), to which is connected a private chapel. *Mottram Old Hall* is a fine black-and-white gabled building, possessing still older outbuildings of unhewn oak. Portions of the moat still remain. A good mountain walk may be taken, from Bollington to Whaley Bridge, viâ Ketteshulme.

26 m. **Adlington** *Stat.* On l. is *Adlington Hall* (Mrs. Legh), a fine old quadrangular house, of which a portion is still of timber and plaster, while the S. front is of brick, with wings, and a portion of Runcorn stone. The great hall dates from the time of Elizabeth.

Adlington was garrisoned on the side of the King in the Civil War; but the brave holders were obliged to yield after a fortnight's siege, obtaining fair terms of surrender for "a younger son of Mr. Legh, and 150 soldiers had all fair quarter and leave to depart, leaving 700 arms and 15 barrels of powder."—*Burghall's Diary.*

The manor of Adlington belonged to the family of De Corona, and descended to the Leghs through the Baguleys. But within the last cent. direct issue has more than once failed, and the estate has passed to other relations, who have taken the name of Legh.

27¼ m. **Poynton** *Stat. Poynton Hall* is the seat of Lord Vernon, who obtained it by marriage with an heiress of the Warren family, in whose possession it had been for generations. The old Hall, erected in the reign of Edward VI. by Sir Edward Warren, was pulled down, and the present house erected by Sir George Warren in the 17th cent. The park is of great extent, and, from its undulating character, possesses fine views. The northern part of the property is bounded by the Buxton and Stockport Rly., which has a stat. at *Hazlegrove* (Rte. 16).

The Poynton and Worth collieries extend over a large area, and produce a considerable amount of coal of good quality.

29½ m. **Bramhall** *Stat.* 1 m. to the N., placed on rising ground above 2 dells, one of which is the valley of the Bollin, is **BRAMHALL HALL,*** till recently the unique mansion of the Davenport family, who resided here since the days of Edward III. The property around is rapidly being covered by villa residences, and the Hall now belongs to C. H. Nevill, Esq., J.P. There is no finer specimen of the antique "black-and-white" timber-and-plaster architecture in all the county, and probably not in England. It was once a quadrangle in form, but the W. side was taken down by a former owner. The N. wing is 13th cent. and the S. 14th cent. The E. was formerly much higher, and had a gallery in Queen Elizabeth's time, which has since been removed. Over the entrance gate is seen the armorial crest of the Davenports, a felon's head, with a halter round the neck, in allusion to the prerogative of the family as Serjeant Foresters (see *Capesthorne*, Rte. 14). The principal object of interest in the interior of Bramhall is the *Great Hall*, wainscoted with oak, and having a semi-octagonal bay window at the upper end.

A spiral oak staircase leads to

the *Drawing-room*, also wainscoted. There are here a number of armorial coats and the arms of Queen Elizabeth, who is said to have presented the mantelpiece to the family. Above it is painted "Vive la Reine." This fine room is 36 ft. by 30 ft. The *Plaster room* contains a floor of that material (1599), not uncommon in Tudor houses; but, alas! only the tradition of a large piece of tapestry, worked by Dame Dorothy Davenport (17th cent.), and an elaborately carved cradle. The *Paradise room* retains its name without its tapestry. It was so called from its being adorned with some of Dame Dorothy's tapestry representing the history of the Fall. The inscription which was round the fringe may interest—

"Feare God and sleepe in peace, that thou in Chryste mayeste reste, To passe from dayes of sinne and rayne with Him in blisse, where angels do remayne, And blesse and prayse His name with songs of joy and hapinese, And live with Him for ever. Therefore, O Lord, in thee is my full hope and trust, that thou wilt me defend from sin, the worlde and divile, who goeth about to catch poor sinners in their snare and bringe them to that place where greef and sorrows are. So now I end my lynes and worke that hath beene longe to them that doe them reade, in hope they will be pleased by me,

"Dorothy Davenport, 1636."

The bedstead and other furniture which were in this room are now the property of W. Bromley-Davenport, Esq., M.P., of Capesthorne.

The *Dining-hall* is a fine oak room on the S. side, divided into 6 bays or compartments by massive timbers. It is 40 ft. by 20 ft., has timbered sides painted to imitate tapestry, and a fine 14th-cent. roof. The *chapel* is lighted by a beautiful Gothic window, containing stained glass with armorial bearings. It contains an oak stall brought from the private chapel of the Davenports at Stockport (temp. Richard III.), and is carved with badges.

During the Civil War Bramhall suffered more than most of the Cheshire mansions, and Peter Davenport, the then owner, has left behind him a pathetic account of the robberies and losses that he sustained at the hands of both parties. Royalists and Republicans were equally bad; and what one spared the other took. "On New Year's Day, 1643, Capt. Sankey (Parliamentary), with 2 or 3 troopers, came to Bramhall, and went into my stable and took out all my horses, above 20 in all, and afterwards searched my house for arms again, and took my fowling piece, stocking piece, and drum, with divers other things. Next day, after they were gone, came Prince Rupert his army, by whom I lost better than a hundred pounds in linen and other goods, besides the rifling and pulling to pieces of my house. By whom and my Lord George's army, I lost 8 horses, and they ate me threescore bushels of oats."

Notwithstanding these repeated losses, poor Peter Davenport was informed against for delinquency before the Committee for sequestration, and after having undergone the indignity of having an inventory made of his furniture, was obliged to appear before the Commissioners at Stockport, and pay a composition of 500*l.* "to bring my own peace and rather than suffer myself and my estate to fall into the hands of them of whose unjust proceedings I have already sufficient tryall."

1¾ m. beyond Bramhall Stat. the rly. joins the main line from Crewe to Manchester at *Cheadle Hulme Junct.*, and the traveller soon reaches Stockport (Rte. 14).

ROUTE 16.

FROM BUXTON TO STOCKPORT, BY WHALEY BRIDGE AND DISLEY.

Rail.	Place.
	Buxton
9½ m.	Whaley Bridge
11½ m.	New Mills
13 m.	Disley
16¾ m.	Hazlegrove
19¾ m.	Stockport

A large portion of this line is in Derbyshire, entering the county of Cheshire at 9½ m. **Whaley Bridge** Stat., a most picturesque village, in which the first signs of the manufacturing districts impart a pleasant and lifelike aspect to the natural wildness of the hills. It is situated on the steep banks of the Goyt, and

is the terminus of the High Peak Rly. after its devious course over the moorlands of Derbyshire. On the opposite bank of the river is the **Roosdych**, said to be derived from the Roman "Rhedagua," which possibly served the purpose of a race-course. "It is an artificially formed valley, averaging in width 40 paces, and 1,300 paces in length. It is in a great measure cut out of the side of a hill, to a depth of from 10 to 30 ft., but where it is most so, it is enclosed on both sides with banks of earth."

It is a charming walk from Whaley Bridge up the river as far as Goyt Bridge, 4½ m., passing the ch. and wooded village of **Taxal**. Some curious documents are in existence respecting this portion of Macclesfield Forest, which was in the possession of the family of Downes, who held rather stringent rights. The last Reginald Downes boasted "that he could bring all Taxal to his court, to be kept in his *Compass* window, commonly called by the name of his bay window." He held his land by a blast of his horn on Midsummer Day and the payment of a peppercorn rent. The family had liberty to try, hang, and draw offenders, and a spot near Overton is still called the Gallows Yard, where this privilege was carried out. The *ch.* is a handsome 3-aisled building with chancel and transept, and contains monuments to Michael Heathcote, Gentleman of the Pantry and Yeoman of the Mouth to George II. and others.

Erwood Hall (Miss Grimshaw).

As the rly. descends the Goyt, additions to the natural features of the district appear in the shape of gins and steam engines, denoting the arrival at the coal formation.

A pretty valley, sprinkled with trees, and enlivened by the canal and the river flowing below, brings us to

11⅓ m. **New Mills** *Stat.*, a straggling but thickly populated village on the Derbyshire bank. It is a modern place, but has a considerable trade in cotton spinning and calico printing. New Mills was originally called Bowden Middle Call, and is in reality a collection of hamlets grouped together for parochial purposes.

4 m. **Disley**☆ *Stat.* The *ch.*, situated on the hill, is worth a visit. It is of 15th cent. date. The E. window has in its lower portion scenes from the life of our Saviour, in its upper the life of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, and was brought from Italy by one of the Leghs of Lyme. There is also a monument of Thos. Legh, the traveller, by Gatley, and a *brass* dated 1606. About ¾ m. from the stat. is the entrance to **Lyme Park*** (Lord Newton), one of the most beautiful and picturesque demesnes in the whole county.

Lyme has been in the possession of the Leghs for generations since the time of Richard II., when a grant of the lands of Lyme Handley was made to Sir Piers Legh, 3rd husband of Margaret, widow of Sir Thomas Danyers. Sir Piers, however, only lived 2 years afterwards, being beheaded at Chester in 1399 by the Duke of Lancaster. His son, Sir Peter Legh, was killed at Agincourt.

The mansion is a large quadrangular building of different dates, the N. front being of the time of Henry VII. and Elizabeth. Over the entrance porch are the armorial bearings of the family, above which is a dial and open pediment, embracing a statue of Minerva. This, together with the somewhat heavy Italian casing, is the work of Giacomo Leoni in 1726. The hall is ornamented with the arms of Sir Perkin Legh, which he wore at the battle of Crécy, where he was knighted for his valour by Edward III. The staircase is very striking, and the long gallery curious. The great drawing-room is superb, and has been little altered since the age of Elizabeth, except the windows; but one oriel is perfect, and filled with stained glass containing the quarterings of the Leghs. It is wainscoted, and has a richly ornamented roof; below it, to the left of the entrance, is the chapel. There is some fine wood

carving by *Gibbons*. Another apartment, called the Stag Parlour, has a chimneypiece richly sculptured with armorial bearings, and 12 compartments below the cornice decorated with incidents, in relief, of stag hunting. "In the front of the house is represented the custom, formerly observed here about Midsummer, of driving the deer round the park and collecting them in a body before the house, after which they were made to swim the water."—*Burke*. Part of a bedstead is shown as the one on which the Black Prince slept during a visit to Lyme. Its very fine oak carving now serves with its projecting canopy of black wood for a chimneypiece over the billiard-room fireplace. Beds are also shown in which Charles I., James II., and Mary Queen of Scots slept, as well as a dagger of the first-named monarch, the bedroom of the second, and the bed-hangings of Queen Mary, which have been restored by the School of Art at South Kensington. There are portraits of Lord Ashburnham by *Vandyck*, of the Duke of Buckingham, of Charles I. with his hat, deathwarrant in hand, and of Lady Derby (La Tremouille) and her husband. There are also some antique marbles brought by the late Mr. Legh from Athens and Egypt, casts of a frieze which he sent from the former to the British Museum, and various bronzes from Pompeii. The tapestries of two state bedrooms are very curious; one representing natural history, another an anecdote of Scipio. The house is shown only in the absence of the family. A charge of 1s. for each person is made, which the servants receive in lieu of gratuities.

In the *Park*, a great portion of which is left in all the uncontrolled wildness of nature, were preserved some of the celebrated and rare *wild white cattle*, which have existed here for many cents., and are said to be indigenous to the district. These are now extinct. A large number of mastiffs of the celebrated "Lyme breed" are still kept. The untrodden thickets and bracken wastes are the favourite resort of the red deer. There is also a splendid avenue of limes, and some ancient oaks. On the top of a hill over 800 ft. high rises a square tower, called "the Cage," probably an old hunting lodge, of which another example may be seen in the Herefordshire Golden Valley. Of the custom of assembling the red deer and driving them through the water "there is a large print by Vivares, after a painting by T. Smith, representing Lyme Park during the performance of the annual ceremony, with the great vale of Cheshire and Lancashire as far as the Rivington Hills in the distance; and in the foreground the great body of the deer passing through the pool, the last just entering it, and the old stags emerging on the opposite bank, two of them contending with their fore feet, the horns at that season being too tender to combat with; this act of 'driving the deer' like a herd of ordinary cattle is stated on a monument in Disley to have been first perfected by Joseph Watson, who died in 1753, at the age of 104, having been park-keeper at Lyme more than 64 years. The custom, however, does not appear to have been peculiar to Lyme, as Dr. Whitaker observes in his account of Townley, the seat of a collateral line of Legh, in the county of Lancaster. It is said of this Joseph Watson that he once undertook, at the bidding of his master, to drive twelve brace of stags to Windsor Forest for a wager of 500 guineas, which he performed accordingly. This was in the reign of Queen Anne."—*Shirley*.

In the opinion of competent judges, Lyme Hall is in extent, timber, associations, and *tout ensemble* the finest *old* place in Cheshire; and should be reached at some sacrifice of time and trouble.

Soon after quitting Disley, which has the advantage over High Lane that it is nearer Lyme Hall, and is supplied with cabs for non-pedestrians, the rly. leaves *Poynton Park*

(Lord Vernon) to the l. (Rte. 15), and stops at

16¾ m. **Hazlegrove** *Stat.* This village, which possesses a cotton factory, formerly rejoiced in the euphonious name of Bullocksmithy. The *parish ch.* of **Norbury** is seen near the stat.

1½ m. rt. is *Offerton*, now a farm-house, but once the seat of the family of Wynnington.

19¾ m. *Stockport Junct.*

ROUTE 17.

FROM BUXTON TO MANCHESTER, BY NEW MILLS, HYDE, AND GUIDEBRIDGE.

Rail.	Place.
	Buxton
19½ m.	**Marple**
21½ m.	**Romiley**
22½ m.	**Woodley Junct.**
23½ m.	**Hyde**
24½ m.	,, **Junct.**
26½ m.	**Guidebridge**

This route is performed by the Midland Rly. between Buxton and Woodley Junct., where it falls into the system of the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Company. From Chapel-en-le-Frith it runs nearly parallel with the London and North-Western line (Rte. 16), although on the Derbyshire side of the Goyt, and it does not enter Cheshire till it reaches

19½ m. **Marple** *Stat.*, where the Goyt is crossed by a fine viaduct 135 ft. in height. Here, too, the Peak Forest Canal is carried over an aqueduct of 3 arches, each of 60 ft. span and 97 ft. high, but its level is soon reduced by a series of 13 locks. Marple is a picturesque place, the ch.-yd. commanding a fine view. It was anciently called Meerpol, probably from the expansion of the Goyt in the valley beneath. Adjoining it are some almshouses, built by Mrs. Bridge in 1853. 1½ m. to the N., between Marple and Chadkirk, is **Marple Hall** (not shown), the seat of J. H. B. Isherwood, Esq., J.P., and one of the most beautiful Elizabethan houses in the county.

For long, Marple was the property of the Vernons of the Peak and the builders of Haddon Hall, one of whose co-heiresses brought it by marriage into the Stanley family, the other marrying into that of Manners. In 1606 Sir E. Stanley conveyed the hall to the Bradshaws of Bradshaw Hall, Lancashire, a respectable yeoman family, in whose possession it remained until the marriage of Mary Bradshaw into the Isherwoods. Here (or at Wybersley, near Disley) was born in 1602 John Bradshaw, the famous regicide Judge who presided at the trial of Charles I. His will is preserved here, containing among other bequests one of 10*l.* to his kinsman, John Milton.

The house, of Elizabethan date, is built in the form of a letter **E**, after the complimentary fashion of that age. The entrance hall is low, with a massive oak roof, and is lighted by a long window with stained glass. The date 1666 is carved with the arms of the family over the fireplace. A bedroom is shown in which Judge Bradshaw is said to have been born, although other accounts assert that this event took place at Wybersley. At all events his bed is here, and is of beautifully carved oak, with the inscription, "Fear God and not gould. He that loves not mercy, of mercy shall miss. But he shall have mercy that merciful is." In the window, painted in old black letters on the ground glass, are the following lines, traditionally composed by the Judge in his younger days—

> "My brother Henry must heir the land,
> My brother Frank be at his command,
> Whilst I, poor Jack, will once do that
> Which all the world shall wonder at."

There is also some good tapestry and the armour worn by the Judge. The library and drawing-room are both interesting and old-fashioned,

have a charming view, in which woodland scenery blends happily with the river Goyt, a little to the left, and contain much carved oak furniture and many family portraits, some of which came from Arden Hall, near Stockport, the old residence of the Alvanley family, whilst amongst others are Mary Bradshaw aforesaid, Desborough, John Bradshaw, and others. The armour is very curious, and amongst other tokens of military Parliamentarian times is a soldier's old "Black Jack" for drinking out of. The extensive stables erected during the Commonwealth are supposed to have been built for the accommodation of the Roundheads by Mr. Henry Bradshaw, an adherent of Cromwell, and brother of the regicide.

Between Marple and 21½ m. **Romiley Stat.** the line crosses the Goyt once more, and there is a beautiful view on rt. at the junct. of the *Etherow* with the former river. **Romiley** or **Chadkirk** possesses a modern *ch.* dedicated to St. Chad, who in the 7th cent. was sent by St. Columb to Christianise the Lancashire district. Rochdale and Saddleworth churches are both dedicated to him, and tradition asserts that St. Chad resided here. A well is still called after him, and a path along the hillside is named the Priest's Walk.

Chadkirk House (W. A. Turner, Esq.) has a chapel adjoining it, an ancient stone building (restd. 1876). *Oakwood Hall* (E. Hallam, Esq., J.P.)

1½ m. to the rt. of Romiley is **Compstall**, situated on the banks of the Etherow, a pretty village, containing printworks and a cotton factory, belonging to Messrs. Andrew. One of the water-wheels here is noted for its size, having a diameter of 17 yds. Compstall is also locally celebrated for its tea-gardens, which attract many holiday folk.

Ernecroft Hall (G. H. Hill, Esq.), a Tudor house on the Derbyshire side of the Etherow. *Green Hill* (M. Woodmass, Esq., J.P.)

The rly. now crosses the watershed that separates the valleys of the Tame and the Goyt, having on rt. the long ridge of **Werneth Low**, a conspicuous hill, which rises to the height of 821 ft.

22½ m. *Woodley Junct.*, where the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire branch for Stockport to the main line at Godley Junct. is given off, together with a line to Bollington and Macclesfield (Rte. 15). We now ascend the valley of the *Tame*, on the S. bank of which, about 1½ m. from Woodley, is *Arden Hall*, formerly the country residence of the Ardernes, and subsequently of the Alvanleys. It is a 3-storied building of Elizabethan date, a tall pile of grey stone, behind which is a turret containing a circular staircase, while at the sides are wings terminating in gables having long bay windows. The entrance gate is in the N. front. In the S. is a central gable with a coat of armorial bearings. The great hall is wainscoted, and lighted by mullioned and transomed windows, and was once decorated with paintings, now decayed. In addition to its natural defensive situation, Arden was protected by a moat, which is now dry.

23½ m. **Hyde** *Stat.* At the beginning of the present cent. a solitary chapel was the only representative of the populous municipal borough that now constitutes Hyde, and which has been created solely by the cotton trade.

The *churches* are modern. Anne, wife of James II. and daughter of Sir E. Hyde, Earl of Clarendon, is said to have been born at *Hyde Hall*, now a farmhouse. *The Lumm*, an ancient house (Mrs. Shepley), has been in the hands of the Shepley family for 250 years. *Gee Cross*, *Godley*, and *Newton* are suburbs of Hyde. In the latter, *Newton Hall*, an ancient mansion, with the inscription "H. I. I. 1670" over the porch, has been converted into cottage dwellings. In Hyde and the above-named places cotton spinning is the staple industry, and part

of the Lancashire coalfield extends under the town.

24½ m. *Hyde Junct.* with the main line of the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Rly. The traveller will perceive that he has left the picturesque and wooded vales of the river valleys for higher ground, which, if not so pretty as landscape, is equally characteristic of the country and of its peculiar manufactures. Cotton factories are everywhere seen, and the open moorland occasionally allows views of distant towns like Ashton or Stalybridge.

Between Hyde Junct. and Guidebridge, on l., is *Dukinfield Hall*, a partly demolished old half-timbered house, with gables and ridge posts.

This was once the seat of the Dukinfield family, of whom was Col. Dukinfield, a very active officer on the Parliamentary side, who was one of the members of the Court that tried the Earl of Derby. In 1659, however, he had some differences with the Parliament, respecting a complaint made by the officers and soldiers of the inadequacy of the rewards given to them for suppressing the rebellion. The dispute was soon settled; but in the meantime the Speaker, in his attempt to pass through a crowd of the malcontents, suffered the indignity of being stopped and sent back by Dukinfield. This gave rise to a doggrel rhyme which became popular—

"Duckenfield (steel was never so true
And as wise as ever was Toby)
Lay in the purlieu,
The cockpit avenue,
To hinder the Speaker's go by."

"Amidst the ruined walls of the old family chapel is the tomb of a Dukinfield, who gained his honours in the wars of the Crusaders. That dilapidated tomb of the Crusader and the ivy-covered walls of the venerable chapel are the oldest architectural memorials which can now be identified of English Congregationalism. In that chapel, encouraged by Col. Dukinfield, the Rev. Samuel Eaton gathered the first Congregational Ch. in the North of England."—*Halley.*

This chapel, which had not been used for public worship since 1795, was purchased by the Congregationalists in 1872, who, whilst retaining the nave and chancel (which now forms a kind of transept and contains a tombstone to the memory of Sir John Dukinfield, ob. 1729), have added considerably to the original fabric.

Dukinfield itself is now a populous township, occupied with the cotton trade, with engineering, boiler-making, and the manufacture of firebricks and tiles. There are extensive collieries, one of the pits being 690 yds. in depth. This pit took 10 years to sink, and 100,000*l.* was expended on the work.

Stalybridge is a busy manufacturing town, through which the river Tame runs. It is consequently partly in Lancashire, although the largest portion is in Cheshire. There is not much to interest the tourist, the buildings being all modern, although it is probable that Stalybridge derives its name from the Staley or Stanley family, who intermarried with the Asshetons. Stalybridge is one of the oldest seats of the cotton industry, and contains many mills for this manufacture. There are also machine works and iron foundries. *Stamford Park*, in the joint possession of the corporations of Stalybridge and Ashton-under-Lyne, contains 64 acres. In the park is an Elizabethan mansion, formerly called *Highfield House*, which is used as a Museum and Library. *Eastwood House* is the seat of J. F. Cheetham, Esq. Other houses in this neighbourhood are *The Priory* (Mrs. G. Cheetham), *Gorse Hall* (G. H. Storrs, Esq.), *Staveleigh* (J. F. Knott, Esq.) Stalybridge has direct communication with the S. by an independent rly. to Stockport, joining the main line to Manchester at Heaton Norris, and crossing the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire line at

26½ m. *Guidebridge Junct.*, where the rly. enters Lancashire.

3½ m. *Manchester.*

ROUTE 18.

FROM STAFFORD TO WARRINGTON, BY CREWE (LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RLY.)

Rail.	Places.
	Stafford
23 m.	Betley Road
25 m.	Crewe
29 m.	Minshull Vernon
31½ m.	Winsford
34½ m.	Hartford
37 m.	Acton
41 m.	Preston Brook
43½ m.	Moore
46 m.	Warrington

The London and North-Western Rly., the great main artery between London and Scotland, enters Cheshire soon after quitting *Madeley* Stat. (*Hdbk. for Staffordshire*), leaving on rt. the distant chimneys of the Madeley and Silverdale coalpits, which mark the limits of the North Staffordshire coalfield.

Nearer at hand is the village of Betley and *Betley Hall*, between which and the rly. is Betley Mere, through which the county boundary runs. On l. (2 m.) is *Doddington Park*, possessing one of the largest lakes in the country next to Ellesmere.

23 m. (from Stafford) *Betley Road Stat.* 2 m. on l. are *Hough Hall* (R. G. Hill, Esq.) and *Wybunbury* village, the seat of the Bp. of Chester's old manor-house. The *ch.* of St. Chad was originally Norm., but was rebuilt in 1833, and entirely anew in recent times, the present edifice having been consecrated in 1893. In the parish are several old halls, which have sunk from their high estate into farmhouses, such as Checkley, Batherton, Stapeley, Basford, Shavington, &c.

25 m. *Crewe Junct.* with the North Staffordshire, Great Western, Manchester, and Chester Rlys. (Rte. 14). The main line to Liverpool and the N. is the middle of the 3 that bifurcate northwards immediately on leaving the stat.

29 m. **Minshull Vernon** *Stat.*, 3 m. from Middlewich (Rte. 22). On the rt. the country is rather flat and uninteresting, but on the l. it is more varied and broken, the river *Weaver* and its tributaries running parallel with the rly. in a pretty valley. 3 m. l. is **Darnhall.** Here was founded in 1266 by Edward I. a Cistercian monastery, which was transferred later to Vale Royal, in 1277. The manor, however, remained their property, passing at the Dissolution to Sir Rowland Hill, who sold it to Sir R. Corbett. From his hands it passed through those of several other possessors, until in 1879 it was purchased by W. H. Verdin, Esq., J. P., of Darnhall Hall.

Near here are *Minshull Hall* and *Lea Green Hall*, formerly important houses, but now, like those mentioned above, become farmhouses. *Ashbrook Hall* is the residence of C. F. C. Luxmoore, Esq.

Erdeswick Hall was the old residence of Sampson Erdeswick, the antiquary, who married the heiress of the Staffords, and settled at Sandon, in Staffordshire.

Large volumes of smoke on the l. betoken the approach to one of the centres of manufacturing Cheshire—the salt-works of **Winsford** *Stat.* (31½ m.), one of the most important seats of that trade in the county. The number of pans used in the salt manufacture is 600, 2,000 workmen are employed, and about 500,000 tons of white salt are annually shipped. Many subsidences have taken place owing to the pumping of the brine, which is reached at from 12 to 60 yds. from the surface. In one place such

a subsidence has caused 200 acres of land to sink below the level of the river Weaver, which has flooded the tract and formed a large lake. The bridge over the Weaver, which connects Winsford with Over, has had to be raised three times (1871, 1876, 1882) for similar reasons.

Over is a small market-town, formerly possessing a mayor, an official whose jurisdiction was abolished in 1883. Lord Delamere possesses the old silver mace of the municipality. The mayoralty was a farce as early as Ray's time, who gives the proverb, "The Mayor of Altrincham and the Mayor of Over, the one was a thatcher, the other a dauber." Over is said to have been the birthplace of *Nixon*, the Cheshire prophet, whose celebrity was so great that even to this day his prophecies are quoted by the country people. The ch. of St. Chad, situated about 1 m. from the village, was rebuilt in 1543 by Hugh Starkey, gentleman usher to Henry VIII., whose altar-tomb is in the chancel. It was restd. 1894. Halfway between Winsford and 37 m. **Hartford Bridge** *Stat.*, the rly. crosses the Weaver by a lofty viaduct—a charming view on either side; the river, which is broad and deep, flowing through a richly wooded vale on its way to Northwich. The woods on the l. are those of **Vale Royal**, the seat of Lord Delamere.

The history of this picturesque old place dates from very early times. It is said that Prince Edward, the eldest son of Henry III., was overtaken by a storm on his return from the Holy Land, and vowed that if he got to land safely he would found a convent for 100 Cistercian monks; whereupon the vessel immediately righted and reached its port. At all events the monastery of St. Mary and SS. Nicasius and Nicholas was founded by him in 1277, Queen Eleanor also assisting to lay the first stone, amidst a gathering of unusual magnificence. The monks of Darnhall were transferred to Vale Royal. The old chroniclers were fond of inventing stories about the future glory of the new abbey; among others that, while the land was yet desolate and untrodden, shepherds heard music constantly playing on the site. The predictions were so far verified that Vale Royal became rich and powerful; but with the power came tyranny, and the Abbots systematically alienated the dependents in the neighbourhood by their harshness and injustice to such an extent that in 1321 the monks dared not cross their threshold; and one John Boddeworth, who ventured to do so, was instantly murdered and a game of football played with his head. To such a pitch did the evil rise that the country people laid a complaint before Hugh, Justice of Chester, asserting that they were free tenants, and not vassals of the soil; but being refused a hearing they appealed to the King, and impeached both the Justice and the Abbot. Again they were unsuccessful, and it was not until they came before Queen Philippa that they obtained a censure against the Abbot, who, on his return from Court, was met by a body of his tenants, his retainers shot, and he himself dragged again before the King, who happened to be at Stamford. For nearly 3 cents. the abbey maintained an unusual splendour, but evil times at last fell upon it in the reign of Henry VIII., when the machinations of one Thomas Holcroft prevailed, the Abbot and monks were turned out, and most of the land given to Holcroft, whose heirs, after 2 generations, sold the property to the Cholmondeleys.

In the Civil War Vale Royal suffered nearly as badly as Bramhall, having been so thoroughly plundered by Gen. Lambert and his troops that the family are said to have only kept life in them by the milk of one white cow. Like Peter Davenport, Thomas Cholmondeley, after he had been robbed, was allowed to compound for it by a payment of 450*l.* The present house, though occupying part of the site of the abbey, contains only a few fragments of the ancient buildings in its basement. It consists of a centre and 2 wings, and is built of red sandstone. A porch in the centre leads into an anteroom containing ancient weapons. This room and a corridor contain stained-glass windows which came from the Hall at Utkinton. The great hall, 70 ft. in length, is a fine room with open oak roof, and contains family portraits and paintings by Rubens and others.

34½ m. **Hartford** *Stat.* is 2½ m. from Northwich. The Cheshire Midland Rly. from Northwich to Helsby crosses the line here.

37 m. **Acton** *Stat.* In the neighbourhood are the village of *Weaverham* and *Hefferston Grange* (R. Heath, Esq.)

Weaverham possessed a ch. at the time of Domesday Survey, but the present edifice was rebuilt in the time of James I., and consists of a nave, chancel, side aisles, and 2 chapels, one belonging to Hefferston Grange, the other to Crowton Hall. Amongst the tenements on the glebe land is one still called the "Cuckstool"—the original spot where the Abbots of

Vale Royal exercised that branch of their jurisdiction. One of the powers that they had was that of claiming twopence in the pound from each servant's wages. *Crowton Hall*, 1½ m. to the l. of Acton Stat., is a timber farmhouse of the early part of the 17th cent., and was the residence of the old family of Gerarde, of whom was John Gerarde, a famous herbalist of Nantwich in 1535.

Another beautiful view is gained a little farther on, where the rly. crosses the Weaver again at Dutton Bottom by a lofty viaduct. In a charming situation on the N. bank of the river is **Dutton Hall**, the ancient seat of the Dutton family, celebrated in early Cheshire history as having jurisdiction over the minstrels of the county, which privilege was granted by Randle Blundeville to Roger de Lacy, and transferred by him to Hugh Dutton. He had also the questionable honour of the "advocaria meretricum," until the suppression of stews in Chester by Henry VIII. The house, which has been considerably altered to fit it for the purposes of a farm, is a beautiful example of the domestic architecture of the 16th cent. The E. side of the quadrangle, of timber and plaster, is still standing. In the centre a door opens into a passage, on one side of which was the buttery, and on the other the hall, separated from the passage with ornamented pilasters. The outer doorway of the hall porch is a broad arch, with fanciful arabesque borders, and the following inscription in black letter:

"Syr Peyrs Dutton, Knyght, Lorde of Dutton and my lade dame julian hys wiffe made this hall and buylding in the yeare of
"Our Lorde Gode MCCCCCXLIJ who thanketh Gode of all."

The Bridgewater Canal runs close alongside the rly. on rt. to

41 m. **Preston Brook** *Stat.*, and presently the line from Chester to Warrington crosses the London and North-Western at a high level.

43½ m. **Moore** *Stat.* The country, which has been broken and wooded, now becomes flat and rather marshy as the rly. crosses the Mersey and the Arpley meadows and enters Lancashire at

46 m. **Warrington.**

ROUTE 19.

FROM STOCKPORT TO PENISTONE, BY GLOSSOP (MANCHESTER, SHEFFIELD AND LINCOLNSHIRE RLY.)

Rail.	Places.
	Stockport
½ m.	Portwood
5 m.	Godley Junct.
6½ m.	Mottram
8½ m.	Dinting Vale
	[Br. line to Glossop]
9¼ m.	Hadfield

The passenger from Stockport to Sheffield quits the town from the *Teviotdale Stat.*, and gradually mounts to high ground overlooking the river.

½ m. **Portwood** *Stat.* accommodates the eastern suburb of Stockport. The windings of the Goyt, which does not receive the name of Mersey till after the addition of the Tame, are exceedingly pretty on rt., and several handsome residences, such as *Bredbury Hall* (J. E. Mills, Esq.) and others, show that the Stockport manufacturers have appreciated the beauty of the scene. **Woodley Junct.**, where the Midland line from Buxton to Manchester crosses. Hence a short branch communicates with the main line from Manchester to Sheffield, joining it at

5 m. *Godley Junct.* Werneth Low is a prominent object on rt.

6½ m. **Mottram** *Stat.* The town of Mottram in Longdendale is placed

on a height in a wild and picturesque country, 1½ m. to the l. of the rly., standing sentinel, as it were, to the desolate and rugged country that runs hence far into Lancashire, Derbyshire, and Yorkshire—the great backbone of millstone grit which forms such a special feature in northern England. The tourist seldom penetrates into this region, but it is worth visiting for all that, and the pedestrian will find in the cloughs, edges, and mosses of which the local names are composed scenery of a very high order, though perhaps often repeating itself. It is one of the most picturesque districts of Cheshire. Mottram has a fine old Perp. *ch.*, possessing a nave, aisles, chancel, a tower, and 2 chapels; that on the N. formerly belonged to the Hollingworth family, but has recently been purchased by the vicar and given to the parish; that on the S., which belonged to the Manor of Staley, was purchased by the Chapman family in 1860. This chapel, which has been restd., contains an altar-tomb with recumbent figures of Ralph Staleigh and his wife, the former in mail armour. In the N. chapel is an altar-tomb, with the recumbent figure of Serjeant Bretland, d. 1703, who is represented in his wig and gown, with a long Latin inscription. There is a fine alabaster pulpit. The view from the ch.-yd. is very extensive, looking down the vale to Tintwistle, and the Derbyshire hills on the other side the Etherow. In the neighbourhood are *Hill End* (E. Chapman, Esq., J.P.), *Thorncliffe Hall* (Mrs. Höffgaard), *Hollingworth Hall* (H. Taylor, Esq.), the seat of the Hollingworth family since the time of King John, and *Harewood Lodge* (Lieut.-Col. W. Sidebottom, M.P.) The village of **Hollingworth**, 1 m. N.E. of Mottram, is dependent on its cotton and print works. Immediately after leaving Mottram the rly. crosses the Etherow and enters Derbyshire, but keeps close to the Cheshire boundary until it enters Yorkshire at Woodhead.

At 8½ m. **Dinting Vale** *Stat.* the rly. is carried across the valley by a remarkably beautiful viaduct of 16 stone and timber arches of 125 ft. span and 120 ft. in height. [A short branch runs to the manufacturing town of **Glossop**, in Derbyshire, a brisk, thriving place, very finely situated amidst the ravines of the upper district of the Peak, and possessing a large trade in cotton and calico printing. It is a great stronghold of the Roman Catholic community, who possess a handsome ch. and large school. This is probably owing to its being the manorial property of Lord Howard of Glossop, whose seat, *Glossop Hall*, adjoins the town. It has been modernised and enlarged, and with its ornamental grounds and terraces forms one of the choicest residences in the N. The *ch.*, the tower and spire of which were added in 1855 by the Duke, was rebuilt in 1836, and contains a monument (bust) by *Bacon* to a Mr. Hague, who left several donations to the poor of the town. In the neighbourhood are some interesting earthworks; on the W. of the rly. *Melandra Castle*, an oblong rectangular fortification overlooking the Etherow, and on the E. *Mouslow Castle*, a circular camp. The scenery of the Etherow becomes more wild and romantic as the rly. ascends the vale of Longdendale, the hills on the W. being rugged and escarped, and rising to a very considerable height.]

9¼ m. **Hadfield** *Stat.*, to the N. of which, 1 m. (in Cheshire), is the village of **Tintwistle** (anciently called Tengestvisie), the grey houses betokening the plentifulness of the millstone grit of which the district is composed. The geologist will be interested to know that annelid tracks and burrows have been discovered in the vicinity. *Tintwistle Hall* is a stone building, which in 1653 superseded an older one of timber, the ancient residence of the De Burgh family, the lords of Longdendale. As the rly. ascends

the vale, an additional interest is given both to the scenery and the utility of the Etherow by the enormous lakes or "lodges" which have been formed for the Manchester *Waterworks*, the dams of which are exceedingly massive. The Bottoms Reservoir holds 407,000,000 gallons, and covers 50 acres. Vale House Reservoir holds 343,000,000 gallons, and covers 63 acres. Rhodes Wood holds 500,000,000 gallons, and is 54 acres in extent. Torside holds 1,474,000,000 gallons, occupying 160 acres, and Woodhead, of 135 acres, contains 1,180,000,000 gallons. The whole of the reservoirs in Longdendale have a united capacity of 3,904,000,000 gallons, cover 462 acres, and are at an elevation varying from 782 to 486 feet. The cost of construction was 1,300,000*l*.

At the eastern extremity of the Woodhead reservoir the rly. penetrates the mountains by the Woodhead Tunnel, nearly 3 m. in length, at the western end of which it enters Yorkshire. **Woodhead** *ch.* was built by Sir Edward Sha (or Shaw), Lord Mayor of London at the time of the usurpation of the crown by Richard III. From *Woodhead Stat.* the pedestrian can make an excursion over the hills to the S. to the head of the Derwent and descend its valley to Hope, or Hathersage. The distance to the source of the river is not very great (6 or 7 m.), but the walking over Featherbed Moss is difficult and tedious (*Hdbk. for Derbyshire*). From Woodhead Stat. it is 9 m. to Penistone (*Hdbk. for Yorkshire*).

ROUTE 20.

FROM STOCKPORT TO WARRINGTON, BY ALTRINCHAM AND LYMM.

Rail.	Places.
	Stockport
2½ m.	**Cheadle**
4 m.	**Northenden**
6¼ m.	**Baguley**
10½ m.	**Broadheath**
12 m.	**Dunham Massey**
14 m.	**Heatley**
15½ m.	**Lymm**
17½ m.	**Thelwall**
20½ m.	**Latchford**
21½ m.	**Warrington**

This line forms part of a direct route between Sheffield, Stockport, Warrington, and Liverpool. Leaving Stockport by the Teviotdale Stat., it keeps the bottom of the valley, frequently approaching the river.

2½ m. **Cheadle** ✡ *Stat.* This is a populous town, portions of which, formerly separate villages, are known as Cheadle Bulkeley, Cheadle Moseley, and Cheadle Hulme, the last named forming a separate parish. The *ch.* has a tower, nave, side aisles, and chancel. In the Hanford Chapel is an altar-tomb (15th cent.), with 2 recumbent effigies of knights in plate armour on it; also an altar-tomb to Sir T. Brereton (ob. 1673). In the neighbourhood is *Cheadle Hall*, the residence of James Watts, Esq.

4 m. **Northenden** *Stat.* The village lies to the rt. on the S. bank of the Mersey. The *ch.* is modern, with the exception of the tower, of the date 1500. Adjoining it is *Wythenshawe Hall* (T. E. Tatton, Esq., J.P.), a picturesque old gabled hall of the

time of Edward III., part of which is of timber and plaster.

In 1643 it was garrisoned for the king, but after a short siege surrendered to Col. Dukinfield, who brought 2 pieces of ordnance from Manchester to reduce it. Mrs. Tatton was one of the garrison, and seeing a Parliamentary soldier sitting on a wall, seized a musket, and brought him down. He is supposed to have been a Captain Adams, who is buried at Stockport, and entered in the register as "slayne at Wittenshawe." Like many other Cheshire gentlemen, Mr. Tatton had to compound for his loyalty, and suffered severely in his estate. Until of late years "a curious custom existed in Northenden (more commonly called Northen), of singing 'May carols' under the chamber windows of the drowsy villagers on the eve of the 1st of May. Of course, the poet of the gang fits the song to suit each particular case, extemporising lines addressed to the several sons and daughters by name." The following is a sample of a couple of verses :

"Rise up the little infant, the flower of the flock,
For the summer springs so fresh, so green, and gay;
The cradle that you do lay in, it stands upon a rock,
Drawing near to the merry month of May.

"Rise up, the fair Maid of this house, put on your gay gold ring,
For the summer springs so fresh, so green, and gay;
And bring to us a can of beer—the better we shall sing,
Drawing near to the merry month of May."

Near here are also *Sharston Hall* (G. B. Worthington, Esq., J.P.), a brick building, part of which was built in 1701, and *Rose Hill* (Sir E. W. Watkins, Bart., D.L.)

6¼ m. **Baguley** *Stat.* The *Hall* is now a farmhouse, but retains considerable traces of its splendour under its former owner, Sir Wm. Baggiley, in the time of Edward II. From that family it passed successively to the Leghs, Viscount Allen, and Mr. Tatton, of Wythenshawe. One of Bp. Percy's ballads mentions a Legh—

"At Bagiley that bearne
His biding place had,
And his ancestors of old time
Have yearded there long,
Before William Conqueror,
This country did inhabit."

One side of the quadrangle is still left, containing the great hall, which is built of huge beams of oak, the interstices filled up with wickerwork. At one end are passages from the exterior to the inner court, the doors of which are concealed from the hall by oak screens. In all Cheshire houses the hall is made lower than the rest of the building, as from its arched roof it does not admit an upper story.—*Ormerod.* The hall has been shortened by a modern erection where the daïs stood. At the opposite end, the doorways leading to the offices and the groining of the roof are perfect, and a capital example of 14th-cent. work. The roof rests upon wooden arches and pillars, the spans between being filled in with open trefoil-work. The windows are plain square mullions, with Dec. mouldings.

[*H. B. Shrop.*]

10½ m. **Broadheath** *Stat.*, ¾ m. from Altrincham (Rte. 21), the spire and houses of which place are seen on the hill to the l. From Broadheath the Watling Street runs due N. in its course from Cheshire to Manchester (Mancunium). 3 or 4 m. hence it crosses the Mersey, at a spot still called **Crossford**. On the Cheshire side was a Roman stat. supposed to be identical with the stat. called Fines Maximæ et Flaviæ, near the village of **Ashton-on-Mersey**, where there is a model farm, established by the late Mr. Sam. Brooks in 1857. It contains a number of private houses, and its parish includes the populous town of **Sale**. *Sale Old Hall*, originally the seat of the Masseys, is the residence of Sir W. H. Bailey, J.P. In the neighbourhood are many handsome houses, the residences of Manchester merchants.

12 m. **Dunham Massey** *Stat.* On the l. are the venerable woods of Dunham Massey, the seat of the Earl of Stamford.

The Norm. barons had a castle here, but of this there are no remains. It attained its name, "The home of the Masseys on the downs," from its original possession by the Masseys, of whom Hamon Massey was 1st baron, and held the township under Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, in the reign of William

the Conqueror. For a short time it passed into the hands of the Stranges, lords of Knockin, and afterwards into those of the Fittons. In the time of Henry VI. it came by marriage into the Booth family, one of whom, Sir George Booth, distinguished himself particularly, first on the side of the Parliament, and then of the Royalists, by whom he was rewarded with the command of the forces in the N.W., and made Baron Delamere. But he did not long continue a Court favourite either with Charles II. or James II., and his son became a staunch partisan of the Prince of Orange, who created him Earl of Warrington. In 1758 this line came to an end, and the estate was brought to the Earl of Stamford by marriage with the heiress. The present title therefore of Warrington is a comparatively new creation, bestowed in 1796.

There is nothing particular in the aspect of the house, which is a plain quadrangular building of brick. The interior (not shown) contains a valuable collection of portraits by *Vandyck*, *Lely*, and other masters of the age of the Stuarts. One of the curiosities of the private grounds is the dogs' burial-ground, where mastiffs and other old favourites have been interred with affectionate care. Some of the inscriptions date from a considerable time back, such as "Here lyeth Puce, of old vertues, who died Oct. 17, 1702," while verse marks the headstone of others—

> "Now poor Lion is dead and gone,
> Once by Joseph thought much on;
> And the servants, one and all,
> Do regret poor Lion's fall."

The chief beauty of Dunham Massey is the *Park*, famous for its oak trees and magnificent breadths of bracken fern, which set off the oak boles splendidly, and for its avenues of beeches, which rank among the finest in England. There is good timber at Dunham Massey, but in Mid-Cheshire the parks are very poorly timbered, and oak does not generally grow well. Of it Leland writes: "iii miles farther I cam by a parke on the lefte hande wher Master Bouthe dwellith." Ormerod tells us that this park contained 500 head of deer. There are now about 100. In early spring or autumn Dunham is well worth a visit. Outside the park and on the road from Altrincham to Knutsford is *Dunham ch.*, built in 1855 by the Earl of Stamford and Warrington from designs by Mr. Hayley, at a cost of 20,000*l*. It is of trans. from Dec. to Perp. style, and beautifully ornamented throughout. It is cruciform, consisting of nave and aisles (with clerestory), transepts, choir, and a chapel, called the Stamford Chapel. The tower and spire, 210 ft. in height, form a conspicuous landmark. In the former is a fine peal of bells, one of which is thus described:

> "As queen of queens, Victoria reigns,
> I sit as queen o'er Music's strains;
> And may her subjects loyal be
> As mine! and dwell in harmony."

The interior of the ch. is very rich. The E. window of 7 lights is filled with stained glass (by *Willemen t*) representing the Apostles and Prophets. The nave has a finely carved oak roof, with figures of angels at the end of the hammerbeams. The pulpit, font, and reredos are all exquisitely carved—the latter in good keeping with the E. window above it. The organ, by *Hill*, is placed in the N. transept, so as not to interfere with the effect of the transept window. The neighbouring towns of Altrincham and Bowdon are described in the next route. Adjoining the park on the W. is the pretty little village of **Bollington**, on the banks of the Bollin, and still farther W. is *Agden Hall* (Sir F. F. Adams, C.I.E.), a modern Elizabethan residence built on the ruins of the old hall, the former seat of the Agden family, and well placed on Agden Brow, overlooking a large expanse of country.

To the rt. of *Dunham Stat.* (3 m.) is *Carrington Moss*, one of the large bogs which characterise the low levels of the Mersey lands. It is 750 acres in extent, and forms part of a sewage farm and market gardens, in their entire extent including 1,179 acres, which belong to the Corporation of Manchester. The village of **Carring-**

ton is situated on the riverside, at its junct. with the Irwell.

The Bollin river is crossed at

14 m. **Heatley** *Stat.* 1 m. to the N. is **Warburton**, the old *ch.* of which is one of the few remaining 14th-cent. churches with portions of the original timber framing and wooden pillars dividing the nave from the aisles. There is a new *ch.*, built by the late R. E. Egerton Warburton in 1885. Warburton was once a place of consequence, having been selected by Henry II. as the locality for a monastery of Præmonstratensians. It did not flourish with the glory of Vale Royal, but became merged into the abbey of Cockersand, in Lancashire. The only trace of the priory is now to be found in the name of a field, called the Abbey Croft, and a few tombstones in the ch.-yd. To the E. of the ch. are vestiges of the moat which encircled the old hall, the residence of the Warburton family. *Arley Hall* (P. Egerton Warburton, Esq.

15½ m. **Lymm** *Stat.* The ancient town of Lymm occupies a picturesque situation on the New Red sandstone terrace that runs across N. Cheshire. The *ch.* was erected in 1850, in place of a former edifice which dated from 1322. It is of Dec. style, and has a tower, nave, side aisles, transepts, choir, and a chapel, which once belonged to the family of Domville, the former possessors of Lymm Hall. It is now the joint property of W. Battersby, Esq., owner of Lymm Hall, and G. N. Ross, Esq., of Dane Bank. The E. window is a memorial to the Rev. W. McIver, who died in 1865.

The lake, which is formed by a dam close to the ch., and the wooded dingle below it, are a source of great attraction to visitors; indeed, the whole course of this little stream affords a constant succession of pretty peeps.

Lymm Hall (J. K. Glazebrook, Esq.), once the residence of the Domville family, is an old grey building within a moat, and near the gates are the steps of a cross cut out of the solid New Red sandstone.

This formation, or the *Triassic*, is that of which the greater portion of Cheshire strata is composed, and is the source whence the great supplies of rock-salt are derived (*Introduction*, p. 17). The geologist will find a peculiar interest in the quarries at Lymm (beyond the ch.), for they have yielded large numbers of the footprints of the Cheirotherium or Labyrinthodon, a gigantic kind of amphibian that flourished in the Triassic era. The only other localities in England where they have been found are at Storeton, near Birkenhead (Rte. 26), and in Warwickshire. In the neighbourhood of Lymm are *Statham Lodge* (Capt. J. W. B. Silverthorne), *Oughtrington Hall* (Mrs. Dewhurst), and *Beechwood* (G. L. Dewhurst, Esq., J.P.)

Some 2 m. to the S.E. of Lymm is the township of *High Legh*, in which, closely adjoining each other, are the grounds of *West Hall* (J. Worrall, Esq., J.P.) and *High Legh Hall* (Colonel Legh). In Henry II.'s time this manor was granted in moieties to Hamon de Legh, progenitor of the West Hall family, and Eward, the ancestors of the Leghs of East Hall. A fine Elizabethan mansion was erected at East Hall by Thomas Legh, but pulled down at the end of the last cent. and the present building substituted. It contains a fine collection of pictures. In the grounds (which were laid out by *Repton*) is the old chapel, built in 1581, in which the family pew formerly stretched across the whole of the E. end. It possesses a screen and some remains of old glass. *West Hall*, too, has its chapel, built in 1815, in lieu of one of the date of 1404. *Swinyard Hall*, now a farmhouse, was once one of the most beautiful timber houses in the county.

17½ m. **Thelwall** *Stat.* The village is said to be of Saxon origin, and tradition states that Edward the Elder founded a port here in 920, the river having been then much wider than it is now. This tradition is embodied in an inscription on the gable end of the "Pickering Arms:" "In the year 920 King Edward the Elder founded a city here and called it Thelwall." However that may have been, there is no doubt that the course of the Mersey is considerably altered from what it was in old times. Near Thelwall it makes one of its large bends, almost enclosing a flat alluvial river meadow, which in this neighbourhood are known by the name of "Ees" (qy. ynys or island?), such as Thelwall Ees, Rixton Ees, Lymm Ees, &c. The river closely approaches the Ship Canal (*Introduction*, p. 24), and the stream of the Lashey brook is carried under the latter in iron pipes. Close to the rly. are *Thelwall Hall* (Rear-Admiral J. P. Jones-Parry) and *Greenfield* (Rev. W. Stanton).

Grappenhall *ch.*, on l., mentioned in Domesday Book, was rebuilt in 1539, and consists of nave, 3 aisles, transept, and chancel. The N. aisle projects farther E. than the S. aisle. There is some carved tabernacle work, and some old stained glass in the interior. There is a Norm. font, and a recumbent cross-legged effigy in chain armour of Sir William Fitz William le Boydel (ob. c. 1275).

Sir P. Leicester says that "Sir William Boydell, of Dodleston, built a chappell in this church, wherein William Boydell, his son and heir, swore to find an honest chaplin, to pray for the souls of the said Sir William and Nichola his wife, 1334." *The Hall* (Mrs. Greenall) and *The Heys* (J. C. Parr, Esq., D.L.) The rly. crosses the Ship Canal immediately before reaching

20½ m. **Latchford** *Stat.* This is a suburb of Warrington, although on the Cheshire side of the river. The termination of the name shows its proximity to the river. Here are the third set of locks on the canal, with a fall of 16 ft. 6 in. They are 2 in number, each being 65 ft. wide; the larger is 600 ft. in length, and the smaller 400. There are in this neighbourhood 6 bridges over the canal, the finest of which is one of iron lattice girders in 3 spans for the L. & N.W. Rly. Near here is the site of the old *Roman Stat.*, now called **Wilderspool**. There is nothing left to identify it except the causeway which leads by the side of the river to Warrington; but at various times foundations of dwellings, pottery, and coins of the time of Vespasian and Domitian have been disinterred. Many antiquaries believe Wilderspool to be the locality of the ancient Veratinum; and it is clear that a road ran through it from Warrington to Northwich, through Appleton and Stretton, the names of which places betoken their vicinity to it.

Appleton township and Hall (T. H. Lyon, Esq., J.P.) are situated on the slope of a steep New Red sandstone knoll, known as Hill Cliff, which is surmounted by a building formerly used as a beacon. It is now the locality of the Warrington Waterworks.

A little beyond Latchford the rly. crosses the Mersey into Lancashire, and enters 21½ m. *Warrington* at the Arpley Stat.

ROUTE 21.

FROM MANCHESTER TO CHESTER, BY ALTRINCHAM, NORTHWICH, AND DELAMERE FOREST (MID-CHESHIRE RLY.)

Rail.	Road.	Places.
		Manchester
7 m.		Timperley
8 m.		Altrincham and Bowdon
8½ m.		Peel Causeway
10¼ m.		Ashley
	2 m.	Rostherne
12 m.		Mobberly
15 m.		Knutsford
17½ m.		Plumley
21 m.		Northwich
	1½ m.	Winnington
	2½ m.	Marbury
	4 m.	Great Budworth
23½ m.		Hartford
27 m.		Cuddington
30 m.		Delamere
36½ m.		Plemonstall
40½ m.		Chester

The line from Manchester to Altrincham enters Cheshire immediately on crossing the Mersey, near

7 m. **Timperley** *Stat.* On the l. is *Riddings*, an old mansion, much modernised, approached across a moat by a stone gateway, and *Fir Tree Farm*, an old-fashioned farmhouse of timber and plaster (date 1676). There is a pretty modern *ch.* at Timperley, with a conspicuous spire.

The line almost immediately passes under the Stockport and Warrington Rly. (Rte. 20), and arrives at 8 m. **Altrincham** ✠ *Stat.* Altrincham, though containing nothing of antiquarian interest, is by no means a modern town, the inhabitants having obtained many privileges from Hamon de Massey in the reign of Edward I., and, amongst others, a "Guild of Free Traffic" and an exemption from tolls. Though in itself there is little to see, it is pleasant, clean, and cheerful, in addition to which its proximity to Bowdon Downs and the woods of Dunham Massey is always an attraction to visitors and residents.

The buildings worth notice are the Townhall, the Literary Institution, and Lloyd's Hospital—all modern and built of brick, with stone facings. The neighbourhood is principally devoted to market-gardening for the supply of Manchester tables. It used to be said that "across Bollin (river) agriculture ceased in Cheshire and was replaced by horticulture." It is famous for a particular carrot, called the Altrincham, or green-top carrot.

Continuous with Altrincham is **Bowdon**, the celebrity of whose downs for charming scenery and beautiful air is somewhat more than local. But it has paid the usual penalty of its attractions and its neighbourhood to a large city, by being built over as fast as possible. Bowdon (called in "Domesday" Bogedon) derives its name from Saxon "bode," a dwelling, and "dun," down; and is said, even in those early days, to have possessed a church, a priest, and a grinding-mill. The importance of its *ch.* seems to have clung all along to it, for there is a local proverb that "every man is not born to be vicar of Bowdon." It was built in Saxon times, restd. in the years 1100, 1320, and 1570, and finally rebuilt in 1860 on the same site (W. H. Breakspear, archt.) It is now in style late Perp., and consists of nave, aisles, transepts, and choir, with 2 chantries, called the S. or Dunham chapel, and the N. or Warrington chapel. There are also some fine memorial windows, especially the Crucifixion, in the E. window, given by the late

Alderman Neild; the Miracles and Parables, in the transept windows (by *Clutterbuck*). Amongst the monuments is one by *Westmacott*, to the Assheton family. In the Dunham chapel is a mural monument to Langham and Henry Booth, the young sons of an Earl of Warrington, 1724; also to the Earl of Warrington, son of Lord Delamere, who was committed to the Tower and tried for high treason, but acquitted 1676 (ob. 1693). In the Warrington chapel are figures of William Brereton, of Ashley, and his wife, Jane Warburton. Around them are 7 kneeling figures, one of an infant in swaddling-clothes, and another which holds a scroll. The neighbourhood of Bowdon abounds in pleasant *walks*—such as to Dunham Massey (Rte. 20) 1 m., to Rostherne 3 m., passing the vicarage and crossing the pretty streams of the *Bollin* and the *Birkin*—of which Drayton says:

"And Bollen, that along doth nimbler Birkin bring
From Maxfield's mightie wildes;"

to Ashley 2 m., to Agden 4 m.

Quitting the Cheshire Midland Stat. at Altrincham, the traveller leaves Bowdon to the rt. and stops at 8½ m. **Peel Causeway** *Stat.* To l., 1½ m., is **Hale**, which had a bad character, if we are to believe Sir Peter Leicester, the historian of Cheshire: "The chapel was much frequented by schismatical ministers, and, as it were, a receptacle for nonconformists, in which dissolute times every pragmatical illiterate person, as the humour served him, stepped into the pulpit, without any lawful calling thereto or licence of authority."

10¼ m. **Ashley** *Stat.*, a good starting point whence to follow up the valley of the **Bollin**, a stream dear to the Cheshire angler for the size and flavour of its trout. It is also famous for possessing a fish, called the "graining" (*Leuciscus Lancastriensis*), supposed to be peculiar to the N. of England and to some of the Swiss lakes. It is nearly allied to the dace, but differs in several particulars. It is said to be found also in the tributaries of the Mersey, near Warrington and Knowsley.

Near the stat. on rt. is *Ashley Hall*, now a farmhouse, a stucco-faced gabled building, shorn of the larger part of its original grandeur; the floors of several of the rooms and the staircase are of oak. Ashley was the property of the Assheton family till 1846, when Mr. Assheton Smith, the representative of that family, and the famous sportsman, sold it to Lord Egerton of Tatton. It had previously been the seat of the Breretons and of the Merediths.

Historically, Ashley is celebrated for being the rendezvous of the Cheshire gentry to decide their course of action with respect to joining the standard of the Old Pretender in 1715. The members of this important meeting were Thomas Assheton of Ashley, Henry Legh of High Legh, John Warren of Poynton, Amos Meredith of Henbury, Sir Ralph Grosvenor of Eaton, Earl of Barrymore, Peter Legh of Lymm, Alexander Radcliffe, Robert Cholmondeley, Charles Hurlson, and Edward Beresford. The casting vote was given against the enterprise by Mr. Assheton. They decided to *do nothing*, *i.e.* not to help the Pretender, but to wait and watch events.

The hall contained a series of 10 portraits, painted 1720, to commemorate those who took part in this meeting, but they were removed to Tatton by Lord Egerton.

[2 m. to the W. of Ashley Stat. is the village of **Rostherne**, and the lovely **Rostherne Mere**, among the largest of the Cheshire meres, though there are others with considerable pretensions to scenery. It is 115 acres in extent, and of very great depth. "On the southern margin, a short distance to the W. of the summer-house, it is 17 ft., and about a third of the distance across from this point the depth is over 100 ft." Local opinion held Rostherne Mere bottomless, until Admiral Cotton, brother of Sir Sidney, the Indian hero, took the soundings, and found the greatest depth to be a little more than 17 fathoms. Towards the S.

the banks gradually rise to a considerable height, and, being well wooded, form a most charming feature in the landscape. All sorts of legends are current about Rostherne, as is the case with most lakes which are reported to be deep. One is, that a mermaid comes up on Easter Sunday and rings a bell; another, that it communicates with the Irish Channel by a subterranean passage; another (not so improbable), that it once formed, with Tabley, Tatton, Mere, and other lakes, a vast sheet of water that covered the country between Alderley and High Legh. Whatever its antecedents may have been, Rostherne is well worth a visit, and has a peculiar though melancholy character of its own.

Overlooking the lake on the S. is the pretty little *ch.* of *Rostherne* (Rodes-torne, the tarn of the Holy Rood), embowered in trees, and the *beau-idéal* of a sequestered country ch. The ch.-yd. is entered by a picturesque old lych gate. The ch. itself was commenced 1188, rebuilt 1533, and restd. by Lord Egerton of Tatton 1888 (Sir A. Blomfield, archt.) At the W. end is a pinnacled tower, said to be the third it has had; and a peculiar appearance is given to the body of the building by a row of dormer windows. Internally, the aisles are divided from the nave by 6 arches. The oak pulpit was given by Lord Egerton of Tatton, and the stained glass E. window is by *Hardman.* The Tatton chapel, on the S. of the chancel, is remarkable for its monuments, and particularly for one by *Westmacott,* to Charlotte Beatrix Egerton, who was found dead in her bed, aged 21. Inscribed beneath are the lines—

> "Softly she slept—in that last hour
> God's angel hovered nigh;
> He raised with love that fragile flower
> To wake in bliss on high."

There is also a large and grandiose sarcophagus by *Bacon,* to Mr. Egerton of Tatton, 1792. The tablet is supported by the figures of Patience and Hope. A modern brass tablet in the N. chapel records the names of various members of Mr. Cornewall Legh's family. Notice also the effigy of knight in chain armour, discovered in digging the foundations of the tower. It was found placed over a large stone coffin, now on the N. side of the chancel. "The Knight is probably the effigy of Sir Hugh Venables of Kinderton, of Rostherne, Astbury, and Ecclestone, temp. Henry III." The village of Rostherne is very small, but shows the care of a good resident landlord in its neat houses and school. *The Manor* is the seat of the Hon. Egerton Alan de Tatton, M.P. The visitor can either return to Ashley Stat., or walk to Bowdon across the Birkin and Bollin valleys—a charming walk; or proceed to Knutsford, 4 m., joining the turnpike-road at 1 m. *Bucklow Hill,* which gives its name to the Hundred of Bucklow.

2 m. *Mere Hall* (Lieut.-Col. H. L. B. Langford-Brooke, D.L.), a handsome Elizabethan residence overlooking the lake of Mere. Behind Mere Hall is the *Old Hall* (Henry Lycett, J.P.), and between this and High Legh is *Hoo Green,* where Dick Turpin is said to have been apprehended after committing a robbery at Newbridge, between Bucklow and Altrincham. 4 m. Knutsford.]

12 m. *Mobberly Stat.* The Augustinian priory of St. Mary and St. Wilfrid formerly existed here, founded by Patrick de Mobberly for Regular Canons, 1206; the *Manor House* (A. L. Payne, Esq.) occupies the site of the priory. The *ch.,* which is fully 1 m. from the stat. on the Alderley road, contains also a carved oak screen made by Peter Alton 1500, a piscina and sedilia with monuments to the Mallorys and Blakistons.

In the neighbourhood of Mobberly are *Mobberly Old Hall* (E. G. Leycester, J.P.), which has some good oak-panelled rooms and an oak staircase, *New Hall, Newton Hall* (A. Kissel, Esq.), and between Mob-

berly and Knutsford is *Dukinfield Hall*, now a farmhouse. It was once the seat of the Daniels family, the head of which is said to have been present at the meeting at Ashley Hall, and to have then and there quarrelled with his brother-in-law, Captain Ratcliffe. They adjourned to a field, where the captain was slain, and the place is still known as the "Bloody." Near Mobberly botanists have found *Cicuta virosa*, *Pimpinella magna*, *Orchis conopsea* (Knutsford Moor).

15 m. **Knutsford**☆ is the capital of Mid-Cheshire, inasmuch as the quarter sessions are held here, and it is the seat of the county gaol. Otherwise it is a quiet, prosy little place, dependent on the agricultural neighbourhood around, and the many wealthy families that reside near it. It is said to derive its name either from the great Danish King's "ford," Canute's-ford, Knut's-ford; or from the A.-S. words Knotte, Knytte, said of the uniting here, by a ford or causeway, of 2 opposite borders of a morass. The *ch.* is a plain brick building of the last cent., and contains nothing of interest except a stained E. window to the memory of a former vicar. The site of the old ch. is about 1 m. to the E. of the town. It now marks the burial-place of the Leghs of Norbury Booths; although the ch. itself, which was partly rebuilt in Henry VIII.'s reign, did not fall till 1741. There is a splendid view from this spot, extending from Rivington Pike on the N. to Alderley and Cloud End. Until 1870 the gaol, in which there are 171 prisoners and the separate system is adopted, was the chief institution in Knutsford, but a new Townhall has now been built opposite to it, befitting its importance as a central town of Cheshire. From its quiet situation and distance from manufacturing towns, Knutsford has preserved several old customs, amongst which is this very pretty one. On the occasion of a wedding, every householder interested in or related to bride or bridegroom works upon the ground in front of his house a pretty device or motto in coloured sands, so that the streets and roadways are one continuous system of scales, arranged one under the other, with a border more or less elaborate. The origin of the custom is unknown.

At Knutsford, near the stat., is probably the oldest Unitarian graveyd. in England, in which the resting-place of Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell is marked by a plain stone cross, where she sleeps amidst her relations the Hollands. The chief claim to distinction possessed by Knutsford is the fact that it was the scene of her sketches of "Cranford" in "Household Words." Her "Miss Matty" was a local character known in the town. The "Angel," where Captain Brown's friend Lord Mauleverer stopped, is still one of the most comfortable inns in England, and the "George" still possesses the Assembly Room in which the performances of Signor Brunoni took place. Sir Henry Holland, the Queen's late physician extraordinary, was a native of the town, where his father, Peter Holland, was apothecary and accoucheur. The place affords the title of viscount to Sir Henry Holland. According to the first Sir Henry, *Saxifraga Hirculus* used to grow on Knutsford Moor, its most southern British stat. It is entered there in all British Floras, but disappeared many years ago through the rapacity of collectors.

There are several old houses in Knutsford, including the "Rose and Crown," dated 1641; a cottage near Brook House, on the timbers of which is the date 1411; and Heath House, formerly known as the "Cann Office," supposed at one time to contain secret passages which were utilised by Edward Higgins, the celebrated highwayman. The Grammar School was founded prior to Henry VIII., and the present buildings were erected 1887.

Immediately on the outskirts of the town is the lodge gate of **Tatton**, the spacious seat of Lord Egerton of Tatton, situated in an extensive park,

about 9 m. in circumference; it extends over nearly 2,000 acres, is well wooded, chiefly with oaks, and contains about 1,000 deer. This park is noticed in Speed's map of the county, engraved in the reign of James I. (see Shirley, p. 206). It was greatly enlarged by Samuel Egerton, Esq., about the year 1760. It is at present one of the largest parks in the county. There were once 2 large lakes in the park, but one of them has been drained. *Cicuta virosa* has been found here.

The house is a fine Grecian building, of white freestone, commenced from designs by *Samuel Wyatt*; but it was not finished until Mr. Wilbraham Egerton's time, under the superintendence of *Lewis Wyatt*, although it is said to consist of but one wing of the original plan. Each column of the portico is of a single block of Runcorn stone. The present Lord Egerton has considerably enlarged the house, and added a private chapel. In the interior is the collection of portraits mentioned (p. 118) as having been brought from Ashley Hall. Tatton formerly belonged to the family of that name and was held under the priory of St. John of Jerusalem. By marriage it passed successively from the Tattons to the Masseys, Stanleys, and Brerетons, the last of whom settled it on his brother-in-law, Sir Thomas Egerton, Lord Chancellor.

¾ m. to the S. of Knutsford is *Norbury Booths Hall*, the property of J. R. P. Leigh, Esq. (now occupied by G. Lord, Esq., J.P.), built 1745. The 'Water-soldier' (*Stratiotes aloides*) has been found growing in the pool near the house. 1½ m. is *Toft Hall* (R. O. Leycester, Esq.), an old-fashioned brick house, with wings and a central tower. There is a beautiful avenue of elms here. It is rather short, but in parts double. The Leycesters of Toft are one of Shirley's 300 Noble and Gentle Families who have held land from father to son for 300 years, a test in which most Cheshire good families fail. The *ch.* (built in 1854) contains a font of Caen stone, the panels of which are exquisitely sculptured. 2 m. farther S. is **Over Peover.** *The Hall*, the seat of Sir Philip T. Mainwaring, Bart., stands in a park, where there is a lake 10 acres in area. It was originally built in the 12th cent. by Ralph Mainwaring, and rebuilt in E shape in brick, in the reign of Elizabeth, by Sir Randle Mainwaring. In the 18th cent. Sir Henry Mainwaring took down half this house and replaced it by a square brick building which has been recently restored. The W. wing includes a fine kitchen, and the stables, built 1654, are very remarkable. The house contains some valuable pictures, including one of Sir Philip Mainwaring, Secretary of State for Ireland, by Vandyck. There are also many important MSS., especially the "Cartularium Mainwaringianum," compiled by Dugdale in 1669, letters by Charles I. and II., &c. Randle Mainwaring was secretary to the unfortunate Lord Strafford, and his picture, associated with his scroll, still remains at Peover Hall. Sir Thomas, created 1st baronet at the Restoration, engaged with Sir P. Leicester in the famous "Amicia" controversy. The late Sir Harry Mainwaring was Vice-Chairman of Quarter Sessions, and a prominent figure in county circles and politics. He was a staunch advocate of the old system of Cheshire cheese farming, now obsolete, which rejoiced in undrained, rush-grown pastures. He was a man of high and varied ability; in youth attached to the Diplomatic service. The **Church**, rebuilt 1811, possesses on its S. side the Mainwaring chapel, which contains the remains of an altar, a piscina, and a credence, and the tomb of Randle Mainwaring (ob. 1446), decorated in colours. He is dressed in plate armour, and wears a collar of SS. The N. chapel was built by Ellen, widow of Philip Mainwaring (ob. 1647), who are both buried here under a fine altar-tomb. In the chancel is a

tomb with effigies in alabaster to Sir J. Mainwaring, in plate and chain armour (ob. 1480), and Joan his 2nd wife, and there are many other memorials of the same family in the ch.

From Peover the pedestrian need not return to Knutsford unless he wish, but can make his way to *Chelford* Stat. (Rte. 14), 2½ m. to the E. But the very interesting **Church** of **Nether** or **Lower Peover*** must not be passed unnoticed, lying nearer Tabley and somewhat isolated. It is a fine and almost unique specimen of a black-and-white timbered ch., originally built in the 13th cent., in which the ancient features have been most carefully restored by Salvin in 1852. Nave, chancel, N. and S. aisles, and mortuary chapels (in one of which are monuments of the Shakerley family, who suffered for their loyalty to Charles I., with the badge of a gauntlet, a helmet, &c.), with all the arches and screens, are of massive oak; and the exterior as well as the interior, save the tower of stone built by John Boden in 1582, are of timber-and-plaster work. The Hulme Chapel (belonging to the Shakerley family) and the Holford Chapel (belonging to the Brookes of Mere) form the E. ends of the 2 aisles, and are separated from them and from the chancel by heavy screens and gates. A stigma attached to the first peal of bells, recorded in the rhymeless rhyme:

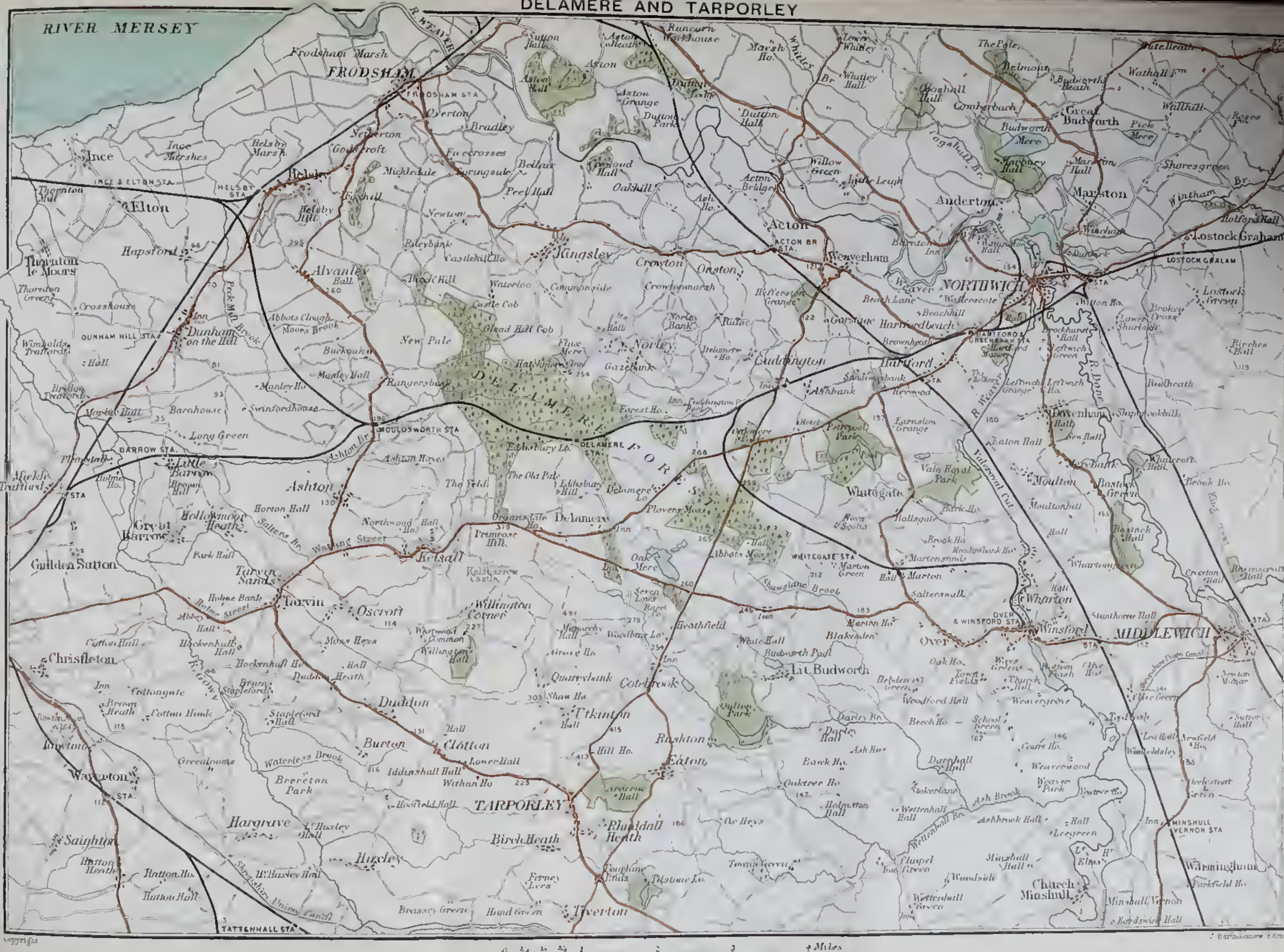
"Higher Peover kettles, lower Peover pans,
Knutford sweet roses, and Rosthern great drones."

But the parish repaired this by putting up a peal of six musical bells, and the whole ch. is an interesting and curious ecclesiastical rarity. In the Shakerley Chapel is an oak chest, on the lid of which runs the legend that the Cheshire damsel who can lift it is worthy and vigorous enough to become a Cheshire farmer's wife. A good E. window of painted glass was erected by subscription in memory of the Rev. J. Holme, incumbent for nearly half a cent.

2 m. W. of Knutsford is **Tabley**, the seat of Lady Leighton, to whom it was left by her brother, Lord de Tabley (ob. 1895). The present *Hall* (not shown) is a brick house (from designs by *Carr* of York), consisting of a centre and wings, connected by corridors. In front is a Doric portico and a fine terrace. The chief object of interest here is the *Old Hall*, built upon an island in the moat. The E. side only of this ancient timber house is left, and contains a wainscoted hall, one arch supporting which is of enormous proportions, an oak staircase and gallery, a carved chimney-piece (1619), in compartments of which are represented Cleopatra and Lucretia, and a bay window of stained glass with the Leicester pedigree. One old oak-panelled room answers to the traditional name of Lady Leicester's Oratory; another, which has a curious plaster cornice, bears the date of Elizabeth. Handsome old oak cabinets and other furniture adorn this curious old Hall, and amongst other curiosities an ancient "spinet," with a painting under the lid which is emblematical. Most of the timber work has been opened to view under the judicious discretion of the 2nd Lord de Tabley, together with some plaster panelling, the dints still remaining upon which show that it once served as a target for the amusement of the ancient owner and his friends. For here dwelt, in seclusion, Sir Peter Leicester, one of the most devoted servants of the Royal cause, for which, however, he suffered severely in his worldly comfort and prosperity. He settled down at Tabley, and passed his time in literary and antiquarian pursuits, chief amongst which was his work on the "History of Cheshire," the basis of almost every other work of the kind.

The chapel was built by him in 1675, and is still used. It was copied from Brasenose old chapel at Oxford, and is of Jacobean style and character. The reredos, painted glass, and altar-cloths are in excellent keeping. The gallery at Tabley contains a large number of paintings, some of them

DELAMERE AND TARPORLEY



London, John Murray, Albemarle Street

of great excellence. Amongst them are two large original paintings by *Turner*, in his earlier style.

From Knutsford the rly. runs S.W. to 17½ m. **Plumley** *Stat.* Near it, on rt., is *Holford Hall*, the old seat of the Cholmondeleys, now a farmhouse. It is of timber and plaster, and has a moat. The original plan of the building was 3-sided only, the fourth side being formed by the moat and the bridge. The upper story, looking into the interior of the court, projects on wooden pillars over a piazza. *Acorus calamus* still survives here in a locale mentioned by Ray. It was grown doubtless to strew the floors of the old Manor House in its palmy days. A little below Holford Hall, Peover Eye river joins Waterless brook; two prominent streams in the Mid-Cheshire drainage. Leaving on rt. the village of **Lostock Gralam**, the traveller arrives at

21 m. *Northwich Junct.* with the London and North-Western Rly. from Sandbach. **Northwich** ✡ is one of the busiest and the dirtiest towns in Cheshire, both of which distinctions it derives from being the principal seat of the salt trade. Drayton thus writes:

"And what the famous flood far more than that enriches,
The bracky Fountaines are, those two renowned Wyches,
The Nant-Wych and the North, whose either brynie well,
For store and sorts of salts make Weever to excell."

Polyolb. xi. 59–62.

Although it is of very considerable antiquity, there is really nothing to see in the place itself, all the interest being concentrated in the outskirts, where the principal mines are to be found, and where, at Witton, is the *Parish Church*, built circ. 1560, and containing a good E. window to the memory of Archdeacon Greenall, and carved roofs dating 1686–8. The high street of the town is called *Witton Street*. The glittering beauty that a salt mine displays, when seen under proper circumstances, has no counterpart in the scenery of the surface, but rather the reverse; for there is an air of desolation and untidiness which one usually finds in a coal-mining district. Moreover, some of the same physical disadvantages are to be found in the shape of subsidences of the earth, which are anything but sightly, and are exceedingly detrimental to house property. "Immense excavations are occasioned by the constant pumping up of brine, at a depth of 35 to 40 yds., which creates large chasms, and the superincumbent pressure depresses the land in a corresponding ratio. Many of the houses are screwed and bolted together to keep them secure; and if the salt-works continue to be prosecuted with their present vigour, the time will come when a great portion of the town and the neighbourhood of Northwich will be sunk beneath the level of the waters of the Weaver. Witton corn-mill fell some years ago. Adjoining its site is the Leicester Arms public-house, in which a gradual subsidence of the earth has converted the sitting-rooms and tap-room into cellars, and the apartments used as sleeping-rooms at that period are now the sitting-rooms and the tap-room."—*Kelly* (1875). Of the antiquity of the salt trade, Camden says that "Northwich was in British Hellath du, signifying the black salt-pit, where there is a deep and plentiful brine-pit, with stairs about it, by which, when they have drawn the water in their leather buckets, they ascend half naked to the troughs and fill them; from whence it is conveyed to the Wich Houses, that are furnished with great piles of wood."

King, in his "Vale Royal," also states that "at Northwich there was a salt-spring or brine-pit on the bank of the River Dane, from which the brine runneth on the ground in troughs of wood, covered over with boards, until it comes to the wich houses, where they made salt."

The beds of *salt*, which, fortunately for Cheshire, exist in such quantities, are geologically found in

the Keuper strata of the Triassic or New Red Sandstone series, which, with the underlying Bunter Sandstone of the same series, form three-fourths of the county. The salt, however, is entirely found in the upper or Keuper division, which, speaking roughly, occupies the districts watered by the Weaver, Dane, and Bollin rivers; though it is in the valley of the Weaver that the great salt-stores are found, as at Wheelock, Middlewich, Winsford, and Northwich.

"The district generally known by the name of Northwich is locally divided into Hartford, Castle Northwich, and Winnington on the western side of the Weever; Leftwich, between the Weever and the Dane, which there join; Witton and Northwich, having the Dane on the S., the Weever on the W., and Witton Brook on the N.; and Marbury and Anderton on the N. side of the Weever."—*Ormerod*, "Geol. Soc. Journal."

Two kinds or classes of salt are worked and exported from Northwich, the rock and the white salt, the latter being the ordinary salt with which the world in general is acquainted. The former is principally shipped to Belgium and Prussia, the latter to America; the total output of both kinds from Northwich and Winsford during 1895 was about 1,500,000 tons. Rock salt was discovered at Marbury by accident in 1670, in a trial for coal, and is now found in two layers, both horizontal. "The upper bed, about 25 yds. in thickness, is found about 50 yds. from the surface: underlying it is a stratum 10 yds. deep of very hard marlstone, immediately beneath which lies the lower bed of rock salt, which is about 30 yds. thick; the rock salt is drawn up in large tubs, containing about half a ton each, its appearance resembling that of smoky quartz, and it is often mixed with clay, or coloured dark yellow or brown, or coral red, but is sometimes met with of a pure white, as pellucid as the purest glass, and possessing a lustre whiter than that of most crystal; this sort, however, is found only in very small quantities, specimens of which are generally kept for the inspection of visitors."—*Kelly* (1896).

The salt mine which is most usually visited is the Marston Rock mine, or *Old Marston*, as it is popularly called, situated about 1¼ m. to the N.E. of Northwich. It has been worked for over 100 years, is 120 yds. in depth, and is excavated to an area of 33 acres. On state occasions—such as that on which the Emperor of Russia visited it in 1844, and subsequently at the meeting of the British Association here in 1854—the mine is brilliantly lighted up by thousands of lamps and blue lights, and the effect of the whole is extraordinarily fine. "The roof of the mine, near the shaft, is above the floor, and supported by 8 colossal pillars of crystal, each pillar being 30 yds. long by 10 in breadth. Elsewhere the supporting pillars are 10 yds. square and 25 yds. apart, and by means of them the mine, which is one vast subterranean hall, is divided into a number of chambers, called 'drifts' or 'runs,' not exactly like streets, though apparently so, seeing that the separation is effected solely by the pillars, and that there is no continuity of wall."—*Grindon*. The main cutting in this mine, when illuminated with numberless farthing candles along its walls of rock salt, is called by the miners "Piccadilly," and presents a very remarkable appearance.

"*White salt* is made from brine pumped out of the earth into a reservoir, whence it is conveyed by pipes into salt-pans, which are shallow vessels of iron, varying from 30 to 100 ft. long, and from 20 to 27 ft. wide, with a depth of about 1½ ft., the large surface thus exposed greatly facilitating evaporation; the salt-pans are covered with a wooden roof, and the necessary heat is sup-

plied by furnaces under each of the pans, the flues of which are carried into lofty chimneys; during the process of manufacture, a film of a white granular substance is continually forming on the surface of the brine, and sinking to the bottom of the pan is deposited as salt, and in this way the various kinds of salt are made, the difference depending on the degrees of heat applied. In making the coarse-grained salt, the brine is heated to 130° F. The salt formed in this process is somewhat harder than the common salt, and bears the appearance of the crystal of muriate of soda. The large-grained or fishing salt requires a heat of only 100° F., but is the strongest salt of all; no agitation is produced by the heat on the brine in this case, and the slowness of evaporation allows the muriate of soda to form in large and nearly cubical crystals; with this heat it takes 5 or 6 days to evaporate the water of solution. In making the stoved or lump salt, the brine is raised to boiling heat, 225° F., under which the crystals of muriate of soda on the surface almost instantaneously subside; the fires are then slackened, and the salt, after being collected at the sides of the pan with iron rakes, is put into wooden tubs of an oblong form and drained, and it is afterwards dried in stove-houses heated by a continuation of the flues passing under the evaporating pans. The brine is generally found at a depth of from 45 to 85 yds., and is no doubt formed simply by springs of water, originally fresh, flowing over a vast bed of rock salt. It has been estimated that every pint of brine contains 5 oz. of salt, and to make 100 tons of salt about 60 tons of coal are required."—*Kelly.*

In addition to the salt mines and brine-pits, which employ a large population, Northwich contains docks, boat-building establishments, iron foundries, and various other accessories to its staple trade.

Rail to Altrincham, 13 m.; Acton, 4½ m.; Stockport, 22½ m.; Manchester, 21 m.; Middlewich, 6 m.; Crewe, 15 m.; to Winsford, 4 m.; Delamere Forest, 7 m.; and Chester, 17 m.

Crossing the bridge and ascending the steep hill on which Northwich Castle formerly stood, the visitor arrives at

1½ m. **Winnington**, formerly the property and residence of the family of that name, in the reign of Henry VIII. The village is now devoted to salt-works, and Messrs. Brunner, Mond & Co. employ 3,000 hands at their chemical works in the Park. In 1659 Sir Geo. Booth, on the part of the Presbyterian Royalists, was defeated at Winnington Bridge by the Parliamentary soldiers under Lambert.

1 m. to the N. is **Marbury**. The name is derived from Mere-burh, the burh by the mere. The *Hall* is the property of A. H. Smith-Barry, Esq., and is in the occupation of Hornby Lewis, Esq. (not shown). It was once the manor-house of the Marburys or Merburys in the time of Henry III., and was purchased by Lord Rivers of Rock Savage, whose daughter brought it by marriage to the Earl of Barrymore. The house is in the French Renaissance style, and resembles a French château, two wings projecting from the central portion and enclosing a square court-yard (open on one side), which is the approach to the house. It overlooks Budworth Mere, the grounds running down to the water's edge. The interior contains a fine collection of paintings and statuary. So large and important a collection of Roman, and, in a few cases, Greek statuary, is seldom found in an English country-house. Amongst the collection is a figure from a missing portion of the procession round the pediment in the Elgin marbles. In the green court is an heroic colossal statue of Helios (?) with the influence of Lysippus. It is supposed to be a copy of some fine bronze colossus, in which

general breadth of treatment was all-important. Notable also is a very interesting medallion bust, life-size, in full relief, of Menander, in which head and shoulders project through a round ring very like a port-hole; on the ground by the rt. side of the head is the poet's scroll, and beneath, on the underpart of the frame, is the name MENANΔPOC in thin characters of late Greek period. This seems to be the fragment named by Visconti "Iconographie Grecque," t. 6, which he afterwards deplored as lost: "Un petit médaillon en marbre que j'ai vu autrefois parmi les antiquités Farnésiennes à Rome," p. 107. Amongst the *chefs-d'œuvre* are—

Vandyck, St. John, Virgin and Child. "The execution, in a warm tone, resembling Titian, is of great solidity." *Bonifazio*, The Marriage of St. Catherine. *Salvator Rosa*, "a picture erroneously called Christ on the Mount of Olives, but in Dr. Waagen's opinion representing the Angel announcing the Birth of Samson. The figures are disagreeable, and the colouring a heavy brown." *W. Canaletto*, Grand Canal. *Beltraffio*, a scholar of Leonardo da Vinci—an altar-piece, Virgin and Child, with St. John holding a chalice, a fine and important picture by a rare master. It was ascribed by Dr. Waagen to Beltraffio. Next to Beltraffio's picture in the Louvre, this is his most important work, and the most remarkable picture in this collection. It was exhibited in the Burlington House winter exhibition of 1878. *Lodovico Caracci*, St. Francis praying. *Velasquez*, Cupid with Birds and Ducks. *Le Sueur*, Holy Family. *Tintoretto*, St. Catherine, "slight, of very spirited painting." *Paris Bordone*, Virgin and Child. *Annibali Caracci*, the Cartoon for the Fresco in the Farnese Palace. *Vandyck*, Virgin in Glory, "admirably composed, of spirited motions, delicate colouring and keeping." *Rubens*, Three Amorini occupied with Harvest. *Gaspar Poussin*, Landscape with Waterfall. *G. Honthorst*, Christ being mocked. "Conception too realistic, but the execution in a warm tone, and careful." *Nich. Poussin*, Landscape. *S. Rosa*, ditto. *G. Honthorst*, Christ before Pilate by candlelight. *Zurbarran*, Martyrdom of St. Sebastian.

2 m. N.W. of Marbury is *Cogshall Hall* (John Highfield, Esq.), and 1½ m. N.E., on an eminence overlooking the meres of Budworth and Pickmere, is the village of **Great Budworth.**

The *ch.* consists of nave, transepts, chancel, and aisles, the latter separated from the nave by pointed arches springing from clustered columns. The capitals of the columns, much too slender for their height, are ornamented with grotesque figures. Outside the tower, in a canopied niche, is a figure of St. Christopher. In the chancel are some good oak stalls. The S. transept is a chapel belonging to the Warburtons of Arley, and contains an altar-tomb of red stone, with the mutilated figure of a knight. The N. transept contains monuments to the families of Brooke of Mere, Barry of Marbury, and Leicester of Tabley. There is a stained-glass memorial window to the late J. H. Leigh, Esq. The Cock Inn at Budworth is a famous old hostelry, mentioned by Drunken Barnaby in his Itinerary.

A little to the N. of Budworth is *Belmont Hall* (O. M. Leigh, Esq., J.P.), and between Budworth and High Legh is *Arley Hall*, the seat of P. Egerton Warburton, Esq., an Elizabethan house, in a well-wooded park of 300 acres, containing also a lake. Close to the Hall is a pretty Dec. chapel, with a good stained-glass window.

The road from Northwich to Chester ascends a rather steep hill on the other side of the bridge, which was once the old Watling Street, and above which are the ruins of the old castle of Northwich. Pottery, coins of Nerva, Roman glass, &c., have been found on this brow. Leaving Northwich, 8 m., this road is crossed near the outskirts of the town by the

London and North-Western main line at **Hartford** *Stat.* 23½ m.

27 m. **Cuddington** *Stat.*, immediately beyond which the Winsford branch is given off. At 6½ m. **Delamere** *Stat.*, 1 m. or so before which the train enters the district of **Delamere Forest**, the aspect of which is very different from that which it presented a few hundred years ago. Indeed, 2 cents. since, it contained 11,000 acres of wood, but the progressive steps of cultivation have gradually invaded it, and each year sees more cleared land and less forest.

"The Earls of Chester, being the local sovereigns of the county, held, after the manner of their royal superiors, the forests or chases in their own hands. In the forest or chase of Delamere are 2 elevated points on the side which overlooks the Mersey and the Vale of Chester—'the New Pale,' enclosed in the 17th cent., and 'the Old Pale,' enclosed by virtue of a precept now remaining in the Exchequer of Chester, directed to John Done, in the 11th year of Edward III., commanding him to make a 'chamber in the forest' for the preservation of vert and venison. In this pale is the site of a lodge which bears that name, and where the foresters occasionally resided. In 1617, it appears, by the account given of the progress of James I. through this county, that the chase or forest of Delamere contained 'no small store of deer, both red and fallow.' Both are now extinct, though the woody character of the forest remains."—*Shirley.* In very old records it was called the Forest of Mara in Mondrum, and extended almost to Nantwich. The Abbey of Vale Royal had the right of obtaining fuel; Chester Castle and the Dee Mills, of obtaining timber for repairs. The same privilege belonged to the burgesses of Frodsham; and the monks of the Abbey of St. Werburgh were allowed to appropriate part of the venison. The Act of Enclosure was passed in 1812, and at the present time there are not much more than 4,000 acres of timber.

But shorn as it is of its former glories, Delamere Forest is still a place of great enjoyment for the botanist and those who love the deep shady nooks of forest ground; and from the elevation of the land, overlooking the broad and fertile vale of Chester, and the flat districts that border the Mersey, very beautiful and extensive views are gained on every side.

"But Delamere from thence his fancie quickly tooke,
Who shews herself all drest in most delicious flowers,
And sitting like a Queene, sees from her shady bowers
The wanton wood-nymphs mixt with her light-footed fauns."
Polyolb. xi. 132–5.

The highest point is to be found at **Eddisbury Hill**, which is interesting also to the archæologist, as being the site of an ancient fortress, said to have been erected by Æthelfleda, the daughter of Alfred, at the commencement of the 10th cent., but of which only a few rough stones remain. The camp in shape is nearly oval, and contains 11 acres. It is 250 yds. in breadth, and 400 in length. The E. side is irregular, and defended by a natural escarpment, but the W., accessible by a gentle slope, was defended by a ditch or double rampart. It is easy to see that Eddisbury Hill must have been of considerable importance; indeed it gave the name to the Eddisbury Hundred. The Watling Street runs close by it on its way to Chester, and it is said that a line of road has been traced hence to the rock at Beeston (Rte. 23).

Some 3 m. to the N. are two tumuli, called respectively *Glead Hill Cob* and *Castle Cob*, and there is one called the *Seven Lows*, about 1½ m. to the S. of the inn. The lakes or meres from which the forest obtained its name are in a great measure dried up or drained, though some remain, such as Oakmere and Flax Mere; but the names of Great Blake Mere and Linmere would seem to betoken that a much larger surface was once under water. To these may be added Hatchmere, of great botanical interest. Some curious old customs are mentioned in Ormerod's "Cheshire" relative to the forest, one of which was the summons to the Hundred Court. The messenger bore a large oaken ball, perforated and slung on a leather thong, the ends fixed on an iron bar. At the limit of the township he was

met by another person, to whom he transferred the ball, and so the message was delivered throughout the district, somewhat after the fashion of the fiery cross. The pedestrian need not return to the inn by the same road as he went to Eddisbury, but can follow a path by Organ Dale, and through a very picturesque and sequestered portion of the forest, regaining the road about 1½ m. from **Kelsall.** A pretty ch. was built here in 1844.

1 m. to the S. is **Kelsborough Castle,** a British camp, defended by a rampart 14 yds. thick at the base, and 300 yds. in diameter. This was evidently one of the lines of defence between Eddisbury and Beeston.

The botanist will find much to interest him in the neighbourhood of Delamere. The following plants have been found here:—*Teesdalia nudicaulis*, *Draba verna* (Oakmere), *Saponaria officinalis*, *Hypericum elodes*, *Trifolium striatum* (Eddisbury Hill), *Galium verum* (between Northwich and Delamere), *Scutellaria minor*, *Utricularia minor* (Oakmere), *Villarsia nymphæoides* (Oulton), *Alisma ranunculoides* (Kelsall), *Calamagrostis stricta* (Oakmere—the only known British locality), *Aira caryophyllea*, *Lycopodium inundatum* (Oakmere), *Pilularia globulifera* (The Fishpool).

Plemonstall *Stat.* 36½ m. (Rte. 25). 2 m. S.W. of Kelsall is **Tarvin,** ✻ where the road from Tarporley falls in, Prince Rupert was defeated in a skirmish with Sir William Brereton in 1645. The *ch.*, well situated at the top of the hill, has nave, chancel, side aisles and tower, and a chapel, called the Bruen Chapel, which possesses a good Perp. window. The chancel has some oak carving, and a *brass* to Henry Hardware, 1584, twice Mayor of Chester. "In the 27th year of Edward I., Walter de Langton, Bp. of Coventry and Lichfield, obtained a licence to impark his wood of Tervyn, contiguous to Delamere."

Horfield Hall, between Tarvin and Tarporley, is an ancient brick mansion, now used as a farmhouse.

1 m. S. is **Bruen Stapleford**, where at the time of the Reformation lived John Bruen, a gentleman of great virtues and strong Puritan tendencies. His liberality was proverbial. Notwithstanding that he had the bringing up of his 12 brothers and sisters, besides 8 children by his first wife, 9 by his second, and 2 by his third—in all 19—he entertained once a week, in his large hall, not only the poor of his parish, but even those from Chester. His biography is told in "A Faithful Remonstrance of the Holy Life and Happy Death of John Bruen, Esq.," by the Rev. H. Hinde, Preacher of God's Word at Bunbury.

The traces of Roman occupation are seen in the straight road between Tarvin and Chester, and in the names of Stamford Bridge, Stretton, Walton, &c.

40½ m. **Chester.**

ROUTE 22.

FROM CONGLETON TO NORTHWICH, BY HULME AND MIDDLEWICH.

Road.	Places.
	Congleton
3 m.	Somerford
7 m.	Holmes Chapel
10½ m.	Middlewich
16½ m.	Northwich

At the turnpike just out of Congleton the road divides—to the rt. to Middlewich, to the l. to Sandbach. At 3 m. it skirts the finely wooded park of *Somerford*, the seat of Col. Sir Charles Shakerley, Bart., J.P. The house is of red brick, and very prettily situated on the banks of the Dane. A little to the N. is *Somer-*

ford Booths (C. Swettenham, Esq., J.P.) The house was built in 1612, and still retains some Jacobean peculiarities in its gables and mullioned windows. The antiquity of this township is shown by the mention, in Domesday, of Sumreford—and by the family of Swettenham being settled here in the reign of Richard I. 5 m. rt. *Davenport Hall* (Miss Tippinge), the original seat of the Davenport family, a low building picturesquely placed, overlooking the Dane. Here the Davenports have been seated since the Conquest, commencing with Orme de Dauneporte. But the glories of the family are now centred in Capesthorne (Rte. 14). On the other side the Dane is *Swettenham Hall* (Col. Robt. Swettenham, J.P.) In the Harleian MSS. is an account of the splendid stained glass that formerly existed in this house, decorated with the arms of the Swettenhams and Mainwarings.

[A little to the l. of the road, and passing Brereton Green, where a fair black-and-white public-house bears on its porch the date of "1615. *B. W. M.*," is **Brereton** (J. A. Howard, Esq.), a fine irregular old pile, built in 1586 by one of the family of that name. Inigo Jones was popularly supposed to have been the architect, but this could not have been, as he was not born till 1572, and 14 years would have scarcely sufficed to develop even his precocious genius. The family of Brereton were descended from Ralph de Brereton, in the time of the Conqueror; but not much was heard of them until 1534, when a Sir Wm. Brereton was actively engaged in Ireland during Fitzgerald's rebellion, and was rewarded for his services by being made Lord Justice. His son, created Lord Brereton, was the builder of the mansion, the first stone of which is said to have been laid by Queen Elizabeth. The 2nd Lord Brereton was a firm Royalist, and was taken prisoner, with his wife and son, at Biddulph Hall, in 1643. He was a man of scientific tastes, and was the founder of the Royal Society. The title is supposed to have become extinct in 1722.

The front of the hall has wings terminating in gables, and 2 octagonal towers in the centre, connected at the top by a singular semicircular arch; the decorations of the Elizabethan bay windows are those of the rose and portcullis. In the interior, the dining-room has a frieze with the arms of the sovereigns of Europe, together with some curious inscriptions, of which the following is an example: "Though thou be for thy pedegre accompted as auncient as Saturn, in wisdom as wise as Solomon in power as mighty as Alexander, in wealthe as riche as Crœsus, or for thy beautie as Flora, yet if thou be carrles of religion, and neglect the true sarvice of the ever living God, thou art a caytife most vyle and miserable."

There is also some stained glass, and 2 or 3 bed-chambers and dressing-rooms with handsome marble mantelpieces, with the Brereton arms, notable for one supporter being a muzzled bear. The date on one of these is 1633, probably in the time of the 2nd earl. An old painting of Queen Elizabeth, and a curious window with portraits, were moved to Aston Hall in Warwickshire, whence they found their way to Atherstone Hall.

Near Brereton is a small pool, called *Bagmere*, the remains of a lake now drained. It was always supposed to show supernatural tokens at the decease of a Brereton heir, and is alluded to by Drayton—

"That black ominous mere,
Accounted one of those that England's wonders make,
Of neighbours Blackmere named, of strangers, Brereton's lake,
Whose property seems farre from reason's way to stand;
For seen before his death that's owner in the land,
She sends up stocks of trees that on the top doe floate,
By which the world her first did for a wonder note."

Polyolb. xi. 90-6.

[*H. B. Shrop.*]

Mrs. Hemans also has a poem on Brereton and Blackmere, entitled "The Vassals' Lament for the Fallen Tree."

Brereton ch. has nave, chancel, and side aisles, separated from the nave by 4 pointed arches resting on clustered pillars. The chancel is lofty, and has a good E. window. The interior contains monuments to Sir W. Brereton, 1618, and to William Smethwick and his wife Frances, 1643, who, according to the inscription, was "a devout and hospitable matron, who had lived in wedlock with him 58 years." The Smethwicks lived at *Smethwick Hall*, an old timber-and-plaster house a little to the S. of Bagmere. The hall was shut off by a screen from the passage, which traversed one side of the quadrangle and communicated with the offices—a common arrangement in old Cheshire houses. At Duke's Oak Farm, to the S. of Brereton Hall, is an old oak, from which the farm is named, the trunk of which will hold 6 persons.] The tourist will not mend matters by trying to shorten his walk by returning through the fields. Besides that this must be done with evident lack of licence, it leaves a doubt on the mind whether you are not still wide of the mark when you emerge near Holmes Chapel Stat., whence it is best visited.

7 m. at Church Hulme, commonly called **Holmes Chapel**, there is a stat. on the Manchester branch of the L. & N.W. Rly. (Rte. 14). *The Hermitage* (H. M. Wilson, Esq.) is very prettily situated on the banks of the Dane, which flows to the N. of the village. Farther on (rt.) is *Cranage Hall*. The old bridge, which formerly crossed the Dane here, was built by Sir John Nedham, a judge in the reign of Henry VI. *Cotton Hall* is a timber-and-plaster farm-house.

10½ m. **Middlewich** ☆ is, as implied by the terminal of the name, one of the Cheshire salt towns, the works being of considerable size. There are also large chemical works and a condensed-milk factory. The L. & N.W. Rly. has a branch passing through Middlewich on its way from *Sandbach Junct.* to Northwich. There is little to see in the town, which is narrow in its streets and old-fashioned in its houses. The *ch.* (of a warm New Red sandstone) has a pinnacled tower, nave, chancel, aisles, and chapels, formerly belonging to the Barons of Kinderton, and containing monuments to the Venables of Kinderton. The lover of old houses will find employment in the neighbourhood of Middlewich, which abounds with them. *Lea Hall*, 2 m. S.W., not far from Minshull Vernon Stat., was the residence of Dr. Fothergill in 1796, who used to attend at the inn at Middlewich to prescribe once a week. He built a moat, with cockpit and bowling-green, of which the traces are still to be seen. Charles I. is said to have once slept here. There is another old house, dated 1616, at **Kinderton**, which place is supposed to be the ancient Roman stat. of *Condate*. In 1643 the Parliamentary forces, under Sir William Brereton, were defeated close to Middlewich by the Cavaliers under Lord Byron. Theophilus Lindsey, a celebrated Unitarian divine, was born at Middlewich in the 18th cent.

The rly. to Northwich crosses the Dane and runs parallel with the old Roman road from Northwich to Nantwich, passing *Ravenscroft Hall* (E. H. Moss, Esq.), the old seat of the Croxtons, one of whom, Thomas Croxton, held Chester Castle for the Parliament in 1650. By the turnpike-road it is a pretty walk through a well-cultivated English bit of country.

12½ m. rt. *Bostock Hall* (Col. C. H. France-Hayhurst, D.L.) The old house was moated, but pulled down in 1803. The original holders of this property claimed to descend from

Osmerus, Lord of Bostock, in the reign of William the Conqueror. A member of this family was John de Bostock, surnamed Whetehampstead, Abbot of St. Albans, and a celebrated chronicler of his day. An oak-tree, on Bostock Green, is said to mark the exact centre of the county.

On the other side the Dane (rt.) is *Whatcroft Hall* (S. Reynolds, Esq.). Passing through the pretty and well-cared-for village of Bostock, the traveller arrives at 15 m. **Davenham.** The Hall is the seat of C. Kay, Esq., J.P. The village of **Shipbrook**, to the rt., is remarkable for having been settled by one of the Barons Vernon on his illegitimate son Sir Ralph, who, from the extraordinary age of 150 to which he is said to have lived, is mentioned in law documents as "Sir Ralph the old." The *Hall* is now a farmhouse. The road soon enters Northwich, 16½ m., passing under the viaduct of the Cheshire Midland Rly.

ROUTE 23.

FROM CREWE TO CHESTER, BY BEESTON (LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RLY.)

Rail.	Road.	Walk.	Places.
			Crewe
3¾ m.			Worleston
6¼ m.			Calveley
8¾ m.			Beeston
		abt. 10 m.	Burwardsley and Peckforton Hills
	2 m.		Tarporley
	5 m.		Little Budworth
13 m.			Tattenhall
16 m.			Waverton
20 m.			Chester

Quitting the Crewe Stat. (Rte. 14) the traveller takes the branch to the l., the great highway between London, Holyhead, and Ireland. None of the Irish through trains stop at the intermediate stats. between Crewe and Chester.

3¾ m. **Worleston** *Stat.* In the neighbourhood are *Rease Heath Hall* (Lieut.-Col. E. T. D. Cotton-Jodrell, M.P.) and *Rookery Hall* (Baron v. Schroeder).

6¼ m. **Calveley** *Stat.* To l. before reaching the stat. is *Wardle Hall*, an old timber-and-plaster farmhouse, with a small portion of the moat left. To rt. of the stat. is *Calveley Hall* (de S. Pennefather, Esq.), where the present Duke of Westminster resided during his father's lifetime. 2 m. to the N. is *Wetenhall* village, the residence of the Wetenhalls in the reign of Henry I., who appointed Adam de Wetenhall governor of Carnarvon Castle. The old hall, now a farmhouse, is a curious gabled building of the date of 1630.

Between Calveley and *Beeston Stat.* (8¾ m.) on rt. is **Tilston Fernall** village and *Lodge* (C. Threlfall, Esq.) **Beeston** ✲ is a favourite spot for Cheshire holiday-makers, who come hither to make a pilgrimage to **Beeston Castle**, 1½ m. to the l., to which there is a pleasant and delightful walk across the fields. Not only is the castle interesting in itself, but it is so beautifully placed, and in the neighbourhood of such a charming bit of country, that it is of itself worth a visit to Cheshire. It is situated on a very lofty and precipitous rock of New Red sandstone, which on the S. rises regularly, though very steeply; while the N. and E. sides form a sheer cliff 366 ft. in height. From the exceeding flatness of the country round, the cliff looks all the more prominent and even grand, and, as might be expected, commands from the summit a wide panorama in almost every direction. On the N. is Chester, and the estuary of the Mersey as far as Runcorn and the Frodsham Hills; to the E. are

the high grounds of Delamere Forest, with the Derbyshire and Staffordshire hills in the far distance; S. are the Clent and Rowley Hills, the Wrekin, and the ranges of the Welsh mountains about Oswestry; while westward are the picturesque and wooded heights of Peckforton. The plain is dotted with churches, halls, and villages, while the smoke of the salt districts around Northwich and Winsford, of the Potteries, of the engine factories at Crewe, and the distant clouds of Manchester and the Black Country, add interest to the scene.

Beeston Castle is supposed to have been built about 1220 by Ranulph de Blundeville, the 6th Earl of Chester, after his return from Palestine; but although it must have been pretty nearly impregnable prior to the days of artillery, its history is exceedingly barren. It played a small part in the Parliamentary war, and was dismantled in 1646. Extensive as the ruins are, embracing a circumference of at least 1 m., there is very little to attract the archæologist, almost all the details being confined to the ditch that helped to make it unapproachable from the E. and S., the bastions, and connecting walls. The most striking portion is the steep, narrow-pointed gateway, which faces the W. Within the keep, on the summit, is a deep well, which has been proved to extend downwards to Beeston Brook, 366 ft. The traditions of the country naturally pointed to this well as the receptacle of vast treasures, but, as is generally the case, they have turned out to be mere shadows. Facing the castle on the W., and occupying a magnificent site on the summit of a richly wooded hill, is **Peckforton Castle**, the splendid seat of Lord Tollemache, whose ancestors acquired the lands of Peckforton and Woodhey by marriage with a daughter and heiress of the Wilbrahams, to whom the original grant was made by Henry VIII. The castle was built between 1842 and 1851, of warm red sandstone, in the Norm. style, from the designs of Salvin the architect, who has been most fortunate both in situation and picturesque effect. A lofty keep or round tower crowns the summit of the hill, and is a conspicuous mark for miles around. The interior contains a private chapel open to the inhabitants of the district. The gardens are charming. So are the lanes and walks all round the grounds at the foot of the hill; and the lover of woodland scenery cannot do better than walk to **Burwardsley**, through the woods under the N. side of the hill, about 2 m. Halfway is a timber-and-plaster farmhouse called Pensylvania; or the walk may be extended from Burwardsley to the top of the Peckforton Hills, a charming breezy range, commanding all Cheshire, and back again on the S. side. The whole distance from Beeston Stat. would be from 8 to 9 m.

The archæologist should not omit to visit **Bunbury** *ch.*, 2 m. to the S.E. of the stat., a fine old building of mixed Dec. and Perp. dates. It consists of nave, chancel (the oldest part), aisles, and the 3 chantries or chapels of Davenport, Egerton, and Spurstow, together with a massive tower. The Egerton Chapel was built by Sir Ralph Egerton in 1527, but is now somewhat ruinous. In the interior of the ch. is a monument to Sir George Beeston, an admiral who was concerned in the defeat of the Armada, and who died at the age of 102; also to another Cheshire hero, Sir Hugh Calveley, distinguished for his bravery in the reign of Edward III. He was not only a good soldier, but a good landlord, for he founded a college at Bunbury, which was dissolved by Edward VI. A grammar school was afterwards established by Thomas Aldersey in the reign of Elizabeth, which, under a modified form, still exists. It owes its regeneration to the energy of the late "preacher" of Bunbury, the Rev. W. B. Garnett-Botfield, of Decker Hill, Shiffnal, and of its head master, Mr. William Bailey.

[2 m. N. of Beeston is **Tarporley**,☆ a town on the high road between Chester and London. The *ch.* was restored in 1869, and the only portions of the old building now left are the tower and the chapel in the N. aisle; the restored portion taking in the nave and aisles up to the choir, the chancel having been rebuilt some time ago. There are some interesting altar-tombs, one of which, a very striking tomb, has 2 effigies—2 females—of the name of Mary Crewe and Jane Done, the latter a member of the Done family, who held the office of Foresters and Rangers of Delamere. There is also an elaborate tomb to Sir J. Crewe (ob. 1711). There are 2 chapels, Utkinton and Arderne, each with its priest's door. The chancel is separated from the nave by an iron screen of Florentine work, presented by Lady Haddington. The visitor should see the large room in the Market Hall, connected with the "Swan," occupied by the Cheshire Hunt, which has its rendezvous at Tarporley. It contains portraits of Sir Peter Warburton and Mr. Smith-Barry. 1½ m. N. is *Utkinton Hall*, an old house of the 17th cent., the seat of the Dones, a famous Staffordshire and Cheshire race, as appears above.

In the neighbourhood of the town are *Portal Lodge* (J. M. Brooks, Esq.), and *Arderne*, the handsome modern seat of the Earl of Haddington.

4 m. to the N.E. is the village of **Little Budworth** and *Oulton Hall*, the seat of Sir Philip Henry Brian Grey-Egerton, Bart., who represents the elder branch of the family of Egerton.

Oulton, a huge mansion, said to have been built from the designs of Sir John Vanbrugh, stands in a lovely park, adorned with a fine sheet of water and the largest lime-trees in Cheshire. "The park is an area of about 350 acres, with a herd of 300 fallow deer, and was enclosed with a brick wall about the year 1743." The name of Sir Philip Egerton is dear to geologists for the knowledge and skill which he has brought to bear on the subject of extinct fishes, and especially those of the lias and coal formation, many specimens of which are to be found in his museum at Oulton.

The fine collection of pictures includes the following: The Entombment, after *Caravaggio*; Jesse and David, *Spagnoletto*; Head of Peter, *Guido Reni*; Head of Paul, *ditto*; Martha's Feast, *Rubens* and *Breughel*; Boar Hunt, *F. Snyders*; Landscape, *Breughel*; Landing of King Charles II. at Dover, *Lingelbach*; Cupid Asleep, *Jackson*; Battle sketch, *A. Cooper*; The Cat Disturbed, *Sir E. Landseer*; Sir Thomas More, *Mytens* (?); Earl of Strafford, *Vandyck*; Archbishop Laud, *ditto*; Archbishop Juxon, *ditto*; Lady Castlemaine, *Sir Peter Lely*; Duke and Duchess of Buckingham, *Sir G. Kneller*; Philip Egerton, *Gardner*; Lady Broughton, *Romney*; Sir J. Egerton, *Sir W. Beechey*; Lady Grey Egerton, *Sir T. Lawrence*; Sir Philip Grey-Egerton, *Richmond*. The collection of fine arts embraces a bust and a fine marble mantelpiece by *Bertolini*, enamels, majolica ware, porcelain, glass, medals, &c.

Within the park is a monument, with some exquisite carving, to the memory of Captain Egerton, son of the Rev. Sir Philip Grey-Egerton, Bart., who fell in India in the attack upon Ferozeshah, during the Sutlej campaign. *White Hall*, near here, is the residence of J. H. Stock, Esq., M.P.

From Oulton it is but a short distance to Delamere Forest, in which, indeed, Oulton Park was formerly included.]

13 m. **Tattenhall** *Stat.* The village lies 1½ m. to the l. On the rt., at the same distance, is *Lower Huxley Hall*, once the moated seat of the Clive family. In Ormerod's time about one-fourth of the quadrangular building remained, and over the gateway was a figure of St. George and the Dragon and the family arms.

During the siege of Chester it was garrisoned by Col. Croxton. The Huxley family flourished in the time of Edward I., and married into that of Clive.

Between Tattenhall and Waverton on l. is **Hatton**, formerly in the possession of the De Hattons, of which family the celebrated "Sir Christopher" was a member. By marriage, the estate came into the possession of the Duttons. Sir Piers Dutton (temp. Henry VIII.) rebuilt Hatton in magnificent style, but on a petition of Sir John Done to the King, he was outlawed for some misconduct.

16 m. **Waverton** *Stat.* A custom existed in this parish that, on the death of every rector, a mortuary fee was paid to the Archdeacon of Chester. But the claim was found so oppressive that it was abolished in 1755. The Harleian MSS. contain a document permitting "the use of this place to Mr. John Tilston and the owners of his house, at Huxley, to bury, sitt, stand, or kneel in during divine service in Warton ch., 1640." 1 m. to the S.W. is *Saighton Grange* (G. Wyndham, Esq., M.P.), an old manor-house belonging to the Abbots of Chester. All that is left is the gate-tower, to which a Jacobean house has been added. On the top of a hill near here is a water tower for the supply of the neighbourhood (built 1891). A little farther on (rt.) is **Rowton Heath**, the scene of a battle fought in 1645, between the Royal forces under Sir Marmaduke Langdale and the Parliamentary troops, which Charles I. beheld from Chester walls.

"Sir Marmaduke Langdale, being that night drawn on a heath 2 m. from Chester, had intercepted a letter from Pointz (who had marched a much shorter way, after he was informed which way the King was bound) to the commander that was before Chester, telling him that he was come to their rescue, and desiring to have some foot sent to him, to assist him against the King's horse; and the next morning he appeared, and was charged by Sir Marmaduke Langdale, and forced to retire with loss, but still kept at such a distance that the foot from before Chester might come to him. The besiegers began to draw out of the suburbs in such haste that it was believed in Chester they were upon their flight, and so most of the horse and foot in the town had orders to pursue them. But the others' haste was to join with Pointz, which they finally did; and then they charged Sir Marmaduke Langdale, who, being overpowered, was routed and put to flight, and pursued by Pointz even to the walls of Chester."—*Clarendon.*

Churton Heath, or Bruera, 4 m. S. of Saighton, has an ancient ch., with some pre-Conquest work, much Norm., and the rest E. Eng. There is a fine, though mutilated, Norm. chancel arch, and monuments to the Cunliffes of Saighton. *Rowton Hall* is the seat of J. W. McFie, Esq., J.P.

Passing rt. the village of **Christleton** and *Christleton Hall* (Mrs. Ince), the rly. enters the general stat. at Chester (Rte. 24).

ROUTE 24.

FROM WHITCHURCH TO CHESTER, BY MALPAS.

Rail.	Places.
	Whitchurch
5 m.	Malpas
10 m.	Broxton
12 m.	Tattenhall
15 m.	Waverton
19 m.	Chester

This is no longer a cross-country route, since the opening, in 1872, of the L. & N.W.'s line of rly. from Whitchurch to Tattenhall. Leaving Whitchurch afoot (Rte. 13), the Shropshire border is crossed (2 m.) at the Ellesmere and Chester Canal, the road running N.W. to

5 m. **Malpas** ✠ *Stat.*, a quiet little sleepy hollow of 4 streets radiating from a common centre. Here is a cross in memory of Mr. Thurlow, a

former rector. The *ch.*, which is a fine and strikingly situated building of mixed Dec. and Perp. styles, consists of nave, aisles, and chancel. There is a good roof, with angels bearing shields at each corbel; also a fine oak chest with admirable ironwork upon it. This is said to date from the 12th cent. There are 2 chapels, belonging to the Egerton (S.) and Cholmondeley (N.) families. These latter contain alabaster monuments to various members of these families, together with some stained glass and oak screens, with inscriptions. Over the S. porch is a parvise, and the E. window is a memorial to Bp. Heber. From as early as 1285 Malpas parish has had 2 medieties, the Upper and Lower Rectories, and the story runs that a king, weather-bound at the village tavern, and falling in there with a genial curate, who was loud in abuse of his absentee rector, was induced to divide the endowments of the living more equably; whence the Cheshire adage: "Higglety-pigglety Malpas-shot." At the Upper Rectory was born, in 1783, Reginald Heber, Bp. of Calcutta, who, as a boy, received his first education at the neighbouring school of Whitchurch.

Malpas was in Henry I.'s reign one of the most powerful baronies in England, in the person of Robert Fitzhugh, whose daughter and heiress Mabilla married William le Belward, and had a son surnamed David *Le Clerc*. His son Philip settled at Egerton, between Malpas and Cholmondeley, and thus commenced the noble family of which Sir Philip Henry Brian de Grey Egerton, of Oulton, is the elder branch; and the Ellesmere family, with the Egertons of Tatton, the younger. Immediately N. of the ch. is an artificial mound, 160 ft. in diameter, known as Castle Hill, on which stood the keep of one of the fortresses of the Welsh border. It is said that this mound covers the remains of a small Roman stat. James I. is said to have stopped at the Red Lion Inn. The old Hall, destroyed by fire 1760, stood on the S. slope, and there was at one time here a Cluniac house, a cell of the Abbey of Montacute, in Somerset.

Cholmondeley Castle, the seat of the Marquis of Cholmondeley, lies about 5 m. to the N.E. of Malpas, under the range of the Peckforton hills. A younger brother of the above-named David settled here, and his son took the name of Cholmondeley on being granted manorial rights by Randal de Blundeville, Earl of Chester. The castle is a modern Norm. building, finely placed on an eminence in the park, which is of considerable extent, and adorned with 2 or 3 small lakes. The interior of the castle contains some fine pictures by Rubens, Paul Veronese, &c., and a series of portraits by Kneller, Hogarth, and Sir Joshua Reynolds.

The old Hall was once a very characteristic Elizabethan building; but alterations at the commencement of the 18th cent., and so-called improvements by *Vanbrugh*, entirely altered its former appearance. Attached to it is the domestic chapel, a cruciform brick building.

Cholmondeley was the scene of a good many hard blows in 1643-4, Royalist and Parliamentarian succeeding each other as tenants, by force, with curious regularity.

"Sunday, 30th June, 1644, the Cavaliers marched towards Cholmondeley House, with 3 or 4 pieces of ordnance and 4 cases of drakes, where 2 Nantwich companies, volunteers, guarding the great piece of ordnance, met them; and, before break of day, they planted all their great pieces within pistol-shot of the house, and about 3 or 4 in the morning, after they had surrounded them, they played upon it and shot through it many times, and they in the house shot lustily at them with their muskets. The besiegers, playing still on them with their ordnance and small shot, beat them at last out of the house into their works, where they continued their valour to the utmost, themselves being few, killing 4 or 5 more of them, and Major Pinkney, a brave commander; but being too weak to hold out any longer, about one in the afternoon they called for quarter, which was allowed; and Mr. Horton, captain of the horse, let down the drawbridge and opened the gates, when the Earl of Denbigh, Colonel Booth, and the rest entered, and took the captain and all the rest prisoners, about

36, with their arms and provisions."—*Burghall's Diary.*

Threape Wood, close to the border, is mentioned by Nicholson as being formerly the great resort of those who had loved "not wisely but too well," and who procured for the population of Threape such a doubtful character that it became the abiding-place of all who had reasons for keeping out of the way of the law.

From Malpas the Chester road runs N., leaving to the l. *Overton Scar*, a conspicuous hill in the undulating plain that bounds the Dee. Pass *Overton Hall*, an old-fashioned farmhouse, and l., *Edge Hall* (Rev. C. Wolley-Dod, J.P.)

10 m. **Broxton** *Stat.*, whence the Broxton and Peckforton hills, which terminate on this side in abrupt slopes, can be explored. The pedestrian who is not too ambitious as regards grandeur of scenery may pass a very enjoyable day on these breezy downs, and may extend his walk to Peckforton and Beeston, some 8 or 9 m. *Broxton Hall*, once a seat of that family, and subsequently of the Egertons, is now a farmhouse.

[A little to the l. of Broxton, on the road to Holt, is **Carden**, the seat of J. H. Leche, Esq., D.L. This is one of the most beautiful examples of timbered mansions in the whole county, presenting, with its gable ends and Elizabethan windows, a most delicious irregularity and old-fashionedness. "The grounds lie under the higher range of the Broxton hills, but command, nevertheless, a rich and extensive prospect towards Chester and the Welsh hills. On the higher parts of the estate the rocks of Carden Cliff and the woods mingle together in the most picturesque manner, and below them lies the venerable mansion-house em bosomed in timber."—*Ormerod.* The Cardens or Cawardens were seated here in the time of Henry III., and the property was brought into the family of Leche by marriage with one of their heiresses. Like most other Cheshire houses in this part of the county, Carden was garrisoned for the Royalists in the Civil War, and was plundered by the Parliamentary army.

3 m. farther on is the village of **Farndon**, connected by a bridge of 10 arches across the Dee with the small Welsh town of *Holt*. Notwithstanding its decayed condition, it boasts of a charter, obtained by Thomas Earl of Arundel in 1410, which gives it the right of being governed by a mayor, 2 bailiffs, and a coroner. The castle must have been a place of some strength, but only a mound and a fosse now exist. Camden considered that a spot on the opposite side of the Dee was the Roman stat. Castrum Leonum.]

Continuing northward from Broxton, the traveller has on his rt. *Bolesworth Castle* (Major G. Barbour), and on his l. the village of Coddington and *Aldersey Hall* (T. Aldersey, Esq.), whose family is said to have been settled here since the Conquest. Leland mentions some brine springs in this neighbourhood, but none has been worked in modern times.

At **Coddington**, near here, there is, close to the ch., a tumulus 80 yds. in circumference.

Handley *ch.* contains a good *brass* to the Venables family; and *Calveley Hall*, a little farther on (l.), is now a farmhouse, with an oak staircase and wainscoted rooms.

The turnpike-road crosses the rly. at Waverton Stat., recrossing it again near Christleton, and entering the ancient city of Chester. The rly. continues through Tattenhall, and joins the main line before Waverton Stat. (Rte. 23).

CHESTER. ✠ The rly. stat. is of great size, and serves as a central point for the Shrewsbury, Holyhead, Crewe, Mold, Birkenhead, and Manchester lines. The amount of traffic is consequently very large, especially

at race times. The length of the façade and platform is 1,160 ft. The cost was about 230,000*l.*, and the whole, with the adjacent Queen's Hotel, forms a fine pile of building.

Few, if any, towns in Great Britain attract so many visitors of all classes and tastes as does this ancient city; partly from its central position on the high road between London and Ireland, and partly from the numerous and various objects of interest with which it abounds. The past and the present are here linked together to a degree that rarely exists in this country, unless, indeed, at "old imperial York," or still imperial London. Our knowledge commences when the 20th Legion, styled Victrix, lay in garrison here previous to the year 60, a fact borne out by many coins and remains discovered at different times.

The Roman name of the town was Deva or Devana Castra, its British name Caerleon, the modern name is the Anglo-Saxon word derived from the Lat. *castra*, a camp. This stat. may have been founded by Ostorius Scapula, it certainly possessed great importance at the time of Agricola. At this time "the town was in fact a rough square of houses, through which the road from Cambria, entering by the north gate, struck to the bridge across the Dee on the S., while in the very centre of the place, the line of this road was crossed at right angles by the road from Central Britain to Wales, the famous Watling Street, which came over the low watershed of the Trent and entered its eastern gate. Deva therefore not only held the passage over the Dee, but commanded the line of communication from Central Britain to both the N.W. and the W.; and so important a post was naturally guarded by fortifications of no common order. The river, indeed, which after passing the city makes a fresh bend to the N., furnished a natural line of defence on the S. and the W. of the town; for a thin strip of marsh, which filled the lower ground between the bridge and the gate that led to it, widened on the W. into a broad morass which is now represented by the meadows of the Rood-eye. On the E. and N., where no such natural barrier presented itself, the site of the town was cut off from the general level of the sandstone rise by a trench hewn deeply in the soft red rock, over which still tower the massive walls which, patched and changed as they have been in later days, are still mainly the work of Rome."—*Green.*

After the departure of the legions, Æthelfrith, King of the Northumbrians, in 613 gained a great victory over the British under Brocmael, Prince of Powys, when 2,000 monks of the adjacent monastery of Bangor Iscoed were slain, Chester sacked, and Strathclyde and Wales permanently separated from one another as British possessions. The place remained a "waste chester" for many years, being occupied by the Danes in 894, until it was in 908 rebuilt by Æthelred, Earl of Mercia, subsequently to which it is said that King Edgar made it a triumphal visit, his boat being manned by 6 subject kings, "whom he (thus toucht with imperious affection of glory), sitting at the sterne, compelled to row him over Dee to St. John's." It held out longer than any other city against William the Conqueror, who reduced it in 1070, after which he granted Cheshire, as a county palatine, to Hugh Lupus, with as much land to be added to his palatinate as he could win from the Welsh. A large portion, if not all, of the present county of Flint was thus included in it, and is the only part of Wales surveyed in Domesday Book. Eight barons were created by the Earl Palatine, of whom the 7th was Gilbert Venables, Baron of Kinderton. The descendants of this worthy claimed to be called Barons of Kinderton as late as the last cent., and were so described, when serving in Parliament, in the Journals of the House of Commons. The Earl Palatine held sway until 1237, when Henry III. united the earldom to the Crown, since which time the Prince of Wales has himself been created, by patent, Earl of Chester. In the reign of Charles I. the loyal city was besieged and forced to surrender after a determined resistance by the inhabitants, who held out for the King until famine drove them to terms. The first charter was granted to Chester in 1128, by Ranulph, the 3rd Earl.

At the time of the Domesday Survey some curious customs existed—one being, that whenever the King visited the city he claimed from every ploughherd 200 capons, one vat of ale, and one *rusca* of butter, and that if any person made bad ale he was either to pay 4 shillings or sit in a tumbril or dung-cart. Chester had in those days a very considerable commerce; ships from Gascony, Spain, Ireland, and Germany brought great quantities of wines and slaves—then a very prevalent trade—spices from France, and cloth from Flanders. In the charter of Henry VI., however, it is mentioned that there was a great decrease in the commerce through the choking up of the channel with silt, which had driven away foreign merchants, and on this account 10*l.* was remitted from the annual rent to the King, which reduction in 1506 was increased to 80*l.* per annum.

The celebrated Chester Mysteries, or religious plays, written by a monk named Randle (1250-60), were acted from time to time in the cathedral.

Mysteries and pageants were at one time, indeed, as at Shrewsbury, a great feature in Chester life, and during Whitsun week a succession of brave sights was enacted for the delight of the spectators in the Rows. Ralph Higden, a monk of Chester, composed Mysteries in Latin in 1327, and procured permission from the Pope to exhibit them in England. A thousand days of pardon were allowed by the Pope and 40 days by the Bp. of Chester, to all who attended the representations. Two cents. later Mysteries were still acted by the trading companies of the city. "Every company had his pagiante or part, which pagiantes were a highe scaffolde with 2 rowmes, a higher and a lower, upon 4 wheeles. In the lower they appareled themselves, in the higher rowmes they played,

being all open on the tope, that all beholders might hear and see them. The places where they played them was in every streete. They began first at the Abaye gates, and when the pagiante was played, it was wheeled to the High Cross, before the Mayor, and so to every streete." Giants in pasteboard were favourite objects of representation, and a curious entry is mentioned in Hone's "Every Day Book": "For arsnick to put into the paste to save the giants from being eaten by the rats, one shilling and fourpence." Mysteries were finally abolished by the Corporation in 1678.

Chester, or West Chester, as it was then called, was long a seaport among those of chief importance in the kingdom. The Watergate is on the W. side of the city; and the Water Tower, now standing on the rising bank of a garden beneath the walls, shows where ships and vessels were moored in ancient days. Chester is still a port, and a considerable number of ships are built upon the riverside. Amongst others was the unfortunate *Royal Charter*, which was lost in Moelfre Bay, coast of Anglesea, in October 1859.

The form and arrangement of the city is simple enough, 4 main streets intersecting each other, as was doubtless the case in its earliest construction. "It is built in the form of a quadrant, and is almost a just square; the 4 cardinal streets thereof (as I may call them) meeting in the middle of the city, at a place called the Pentise, which affordeth a pleasant prospect at once into all 4."—*Fuller.* The centre of the town was marked by the *High Cross*, pulled down by the Parliamentary army of 1646.

The **Walls**,* one of its most peculiar features, entirely surround the city at a height varying from 12 ft. to 40 ft., affording a very pleasant walk of nearly 2 m., though, as the population has considerably increased, a large and important district is necessarily extramural.

A walk round the walls is an essential part of a visit to Chester, and will give the tourist an excellent idea of the city. Start from Eastgate (rebuilt, by the 1st Lord Grosvenor, in 1769), close to the Grosvenor Hotel, and walking S.—leaving, that is, the hotel on the right hand—the path crosses a small gate, the *Newgate*, anciently called Wolf Gate, or Pepper Gate, which was the scene of a curious local incident: "In the 16th cent. the mayor of the city had his daughter, as she was playing at ball with other maidens in Pepper Street, stolen away by a young man through the same gate, wherefore he caused it to be shut up, which gave rise to the saying, 'When the daughter is stolen, shut Pepper Gate.'"—*Fuller.*

The first noteworthy objects are St. John's Ch. (p. 143) on the l. (*i.e.* outside the walls), with the Bishop's Palace close at hand. The path passes by a series of steps, the "*Wishing Steps*," to the river, which it skirts. **Bridgegate** is now crossed, the *old bridge* will be seen beneath; farther down the river is the fine **Grosvenor Bridge**, remarkable for the wide span (200 ft.) of its stone arch, and on the opposite shore, between the 2 bridges, is the ch. of St. Mary without the walls. The path now leads under the wall of the castle (p. 144), crosses Grosvenor Street, and has the **Roodeye** on its l. This fine meadow, said to have derived its name from the burial there of one or more of the figures of a rood [which derivation is very doubtful], is famous as being the ground on which the Chester Cup is annually run for.

In 1540 a bell of silver, of the value of 3*s.* 6*d.* or more, was annually given by the Saddlers' Company "to him who shall run the best on horseback." This arrangement was subsequently changed, and it was declared that "that horse which with speede did over-runne the reste had the beste cuppe then presently delivered, and that horse which came seconde, next the firste, before the reste, had the seconde cuppe then also delivered." The course is about 1 m. round; and, with the ancient city walls and the rising ground across the river girdling it, it forms a most beautiful amphitheatre, presenting, with the enormous masses of people gathered to see the races, the only sight capable of being compared with a Roman spectacle. But the course is too small for the stride and number of thoroughbred horses that are brought

PLAN OF CHESTER

London John Murray, Albemarle Street

to run in particular races, and bad accidents have been of too frequent occurrence. Nevertheless there is no finer English scene than the Roodeye at the period of the Cup race in May.

A portion of the Roman wall can be seen on the l., about halfway between Grosvenor Street and the Grand Stand. Immediately beyond the last-mentioned spot, **Watergate** is crossed; a little farther on, to the rt., is the **Cheese Market**. The wall now crosses the rly. line, and at its N.W. corner has 2 towers, one at some little distance, the **Water Tower**, the other close at hand, **Bonewaldesthorne's Tower**. From this there is an open embattled gallery, having below it a circular arch, beneath which the tide flowed previous to the embankment of the Dee. In a public garden by these towers are a hypocaust and other Roman remains found in Bridge Street.

This portion of the walls was most fiercely attacked by the Parliamentary army, who bombarded it from *Brewers Hall*, a farmhouse (still standing) on the opposite side of the river. The Water Tower was built in 1322 by a mason named Helpstone for 100*l*., and still preserves marks of the mooring-place for vessels.

Again crossing the rly. line, the tourist will come to a semicircular building known as **Pemberton's Parlour**, its earlier name having been the "Goblin Tower" (rebuilt 1884). An inscription upon it states that "in the seventh year of the glorious reign of Queen Anne, divers large breaches in these walls were rebuilt, and other decays therein were repaired, two thousand yards of the pace were new flagged or paved, and the whole improved, regulated, and adorned at the expense of one thousand pounds and upwards." The ground in the N.W. angle of the wall which is traversed by the rly. line is called the **Barrow Field**, and supposed to have been the exercising ground of the Roman soldiers and the burial-place of those who died of the plague. The next object of notice is a 2-staged watch-tower, **Morgan's Mount**, on the upper story of which was placed a battery during the siege. From this point the Welsh mountains can be well seen on a clear day, Moel Fammau being the highest visible point. Hawarden Castle, the seat of the Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone, is visible from here, and the large modern Elizabethan building lying due N. of the wall is the Diocesan Training College. The Chester and Ellesmere Canal lies close beneath the walls.

The path now crosses **Northgate**, formerly used as the city prison. On the city side beyond this point may be seen some traces of the Roman walls. At the N.E. angle is the **Phœnix Tower**, so called from its being marked with a Phœnix, the crest of the Painters' and Stationers' Company, the tower having been used as a chamber of business by various city guilds. From the summit, as the visitor is informed by the inscription, Charles I. had the grief of seeing his army, under Sir Marmaduke Langdale, defeated at Rowton Moor (Rte. 23), Sept. 27, 1645, by the Parliamentary force under Gen. Pointz. The saddlers had a special tower nearer the cathedral, which was taken down in 1780.

The path crosses a small postern gate, the **Kailyard Gate**, which led to the cabbage gardens, once the property of the Abbot of St. Werburgh's. On the rt. lies the Cathedral, and just beyond it is Eastgate, the point at which the walk commenced.

Perhaps the most striking feature in Chester, indeed, almost unique, and peculiar to it, are the **Rows**; according to Fuller, "a property of building peculiar to the city, being galleries, wherein the passengers go dry without coming into the streets, having steps on both sides and underneath, the fashion thereof being somewhat hard to conceive." Camden says of them: "The houses are very fair built, and along the chief streets are galleries or walking places they call rows, having shops

on both sides, through which a man may walk dry from one end to the other." From their sheltered position, and the fact that the best shops are to be found in them, particularly in those of Eastgate and Bridge Streets, the visitor may expect to find the streets comparatively deserted, while all that is fashionable in Chester congregates in the Rows. They are in reality a continuous passage, as if originally formed by cutting away the ground-floor rooms for public traffic. The same kind of building may be seen in country towns elsewhere, and it is nothing but a rude approximation to the mode of architecture in many towns in the N. of Italy. That they may be a relic of the Roman arrangements, as is often supposed, is possible. In addition to the general old-fashioned appearance of the Rows, many of the houses show interesting examples of timber work and carving including that particular style of ornamental plasterwork known as "pargetting," in which the patterns are raised or indented upon it. Many shops have been rebuilt in the same antique fashion, but there are still old timbered gable houses with their carving and ornaments as originally designed. One of these old **tenements**, lately restd., is on the S. side of Watergate Street, and has, carved on a beam, "God's Providence is mine Inheritance, 1652," alluding to the time when the plague devastated the city, the inhabitants of this house being almost the only ones who escaped. Lower down is **Bishop Lloyd's** residence, 1615, of which the whole front is enriched with carvings of Scriptural subjects and armorial bearings. Of the former are Adam and Eve, Cain killing Abel, Abraham offering up Isaac, &c. Near this, again, is another ornamented house, known as the **Palace** of the **Stanley** family, 1591, occupying the site of a monastery of Black Friars. It is approached through a narrow passage nearly opposite Trinity Ch., and is the oldest good specimen of timber architecture in Chester.

The **Yacht Tavern**, at the corner of Nicholas Street, once the best inn in the city, was the temporary quarters of Dean Swift, who wrote on the windows the following sarcastic remarks on the cathedral body:

"Rotten without and mouldering within,
This place and its clergy are surely akin.'

In Bridge Street, opposite St. Olave's Ch., is **Gamull House**, a 17th-cent. building, where Sir Francis Gamull (Mayor of Chester in 1634) lodged and entertained Charles I. in 1645. Some of the rooms of this house still contain good panelling.

At the corner of Cuppin Street is the **Falcon Inn**, recently restd. by the Duke of Westminster. It was erected at the end of the 16th cent., apparently as a copy of a much earlier building. Another fine half-timbered building is the **Bear and Billet**, close to the Bridgegate. This fine 17th-cent. mansion belonged to the Earls of Shrewsbury until 1867, the Talbots having been sergeants of the neighbouring gate.

The **Cathedral**,* though not to be compared with many others in the kingdom, is nevertheless a venerable pile, an additional appearance of age being acquired from the character of the New Red sandstone of which it is built. One of the best views of it is obtainable from the city wall, on the S.E., catching 3 main features of the whole pile: the conical roof at the end of the S. aisle of the choir; the vast size of the S. transept; and the roof of the Lady Chapel at the E. end of the choir.

A monastery was early erected here to St. Peter and St. Paul, which in the 10th cent. was called after St. Werburgh, by Æthefleda of Mercia. St. Werburgh lies buried here—

"In the Abbaye of Chestre she is shryned
rychely,
Pryores and lady of that holy place,
The cheyf protectryce of the said monastery,
Long before the conquest by devyne
grace."

She was the daughter of Wulfere, King of Mercia, and of St. Ermenilde, his wife, and

died about the end of the 7th cent. Hugh Lupus changed the monastery into an abbey of Benedictine monks, in whose possession it remained until 1541, when the abbey of St. Werburgh became the cathedral ch. of the see of Chester, bestowed by Henry VIII. Its revenues at the Dissolution amounted to 1,073*l.*—a large sum in those days. During the feast of St. Werburgh, a great fair was held, at which time the privilege of sanctuary was extended to every evildoer who was present at it. On one occasion during its continuance, Earl Randal, besieged by the Welsh in Rhuddlan Castle, sent for help to his constable at Chester, who, having no available forces, marched off to the rescue with all the vagabonds who thronged the fair, and by the appearance of superior numbers put the Welsh to flight. Simon Ripley, Abbot from 1485 to 1492, rebuilt the nave, tower, and S. transept, which had become ruinous. "This can only mean that he greatly altered the nave, the main arches of which are Dec. of the 14th cent. The arches and upper part of the central tower are Perp., as are the clerestory and roof of the nave. The S. transept has, like the nave, Dec. piers and arches, with Perp. clerestory and roof. Nearly the whole of the exterior of the ch. was cased during the Perp. period; Perp. chapels were added at the end of the choir aisles, and Perp. tracery was inserted in many windows of earlier date."—*Handbook to Cathedrals.*

The Cathedral consists of nave, with side aisles, transepts, choir, Lady Chapel, and central tower; the eastern portion being E. Eng., while the remainder is Dec. with Perp. alterations and additions.

The **Nave** is 145 ft. long, 78 ft. high, and, including the aisles, 75 ft. wide. It never had a stone vault, and the present roof of oak was designed by Sir G. Scott, the ribs being continued from the stone springers, from which it was no doubt intended that the stone vaulting should rise. The roof of the aisles is, however, of stone. At the W. end of the S. aisle is the Consistory Court, and over the adjacent S. porch is a parvise used as the Muniment Room of the Cathedral. The windows of this aisle are Dec. At the W. end of the N. aisle is the Baptistery, in the lower part of the old Norm. tower; this forms the most important relic of the Norm. ch. built by Hugh Lupus. The N. aisle is Norm., and is covered by a series of modern mosaics representing scenes from the Old Testament; these were executed by Burke & Co., after designs by Clayton and Bell, and presented by Mrs. Platt. From the W. door 2 flights, each of 4 steps, lead down from the level of the street to that of the ch. The main arcade of the nave is Dec., the capitals of the piers having Dec. foliage, and above it is a Perp. clerestory, which serves also the purpose of a triforium, as is the case in the choir of York.

The *N. transept* is of small size, remaining of the same area as that of the original Norm. ch.; no doubt, as Dean Howson points out, because the abbey buildings prevented expansion on that side. The same writer adds: "We see here what the Norm. ch. used to be, at least in one important part of it. The masonry of small stones, with large interstices of mortar, in the E. and N. sides, tells its own story; and the story is made more articulate by the immediate proximity of later masonry, consisting of closely fitting large stones. But notice must be taken here of something more than the surface stonework of the enclosing walls. A large Norm. archway, resting on well-defined pillars, once opened freely into a chapel on the E., which is now termed the Canon's Vestry. Above this is a small row of arches, in the triforium, of even greater interest. Their rudeness, simplicity, and massiveness show that they belong to the time of the very beginning of the building of this ch. On the W. side, opposite, 3 round-headed Norm. windows, now closed, may still be traced." This transept contains the modern monument to Bp. Pearson (1673–86), the author of a well-known work on the Creed. Close by is the great stone organ-loft supported on 16 columns of Italian marble, presented by the Duke of Westminster. The organ itself was manufactured by Whiteley of Chester, and the case, from Sir G. Scott's design, by Farmer & Brindley of London. The great *S. transept* equals in size the choir, and is nearly as large as the

nave; it possesses side aisles, and had 4 altars on its E. side. It was until recently the parish ch. of St. Oswald, having been set apart for that purpose by Earl Lupus in 1093. Its architecture is of the 14th and 15th cents.

The rails and gates to the choir aisles (dated 1558) are of Spanish manufacture, and the gift of the Duke of Westminster. Off the *N. choir aisle* is a chapel known as the *Canon's Vestry*, which contains some exceptionally fine 15th-cent. iron-work. The aisle itself has examples of Norm., E. Eng., and Perp. architecture, and a curved line of dark marble in the floor shows where the apsidal Norm. terminating wall was placed. The *Lady Chapel*, which is of E. Eng. architecture, has a groined roof, in one of the bosses of which is represented the martyrdom of St. Thomas of Canterbury.

On the S. side of the Lady Chapel is the *Chapel of St. Erasmus*, with a modern apsidal termination. It was restd. in memory of Thos. Brassey, Esq., and contains mosaics by Salviati. There is a double piscina and a credence table. The *S. choir aisle* contains several ancient tombs of abbots.

The choir is 125 ft. long and 78 ft. high, and is entered through a doorway in a carved wood screen which intervenes between the returned choir stalls. The workmanship of the **stalls** * is particularly fine, and they have been most carefully cleaned and restd. at a cost of 50*l.* each. In 1634 the oak had been painted, and 4 coats had to be removed before the wood was reached. There are a number of fine misereres, and the carving of the bench end and poppy head of the Dean's stall should be particularly noticed. The bishop's throne, at the end of the stalls on the S. side, is modern. The pulpit, on the opposite side, was the gift of the Freemasons of Chester. Behind the communion table is a reredos of Salviati mosaics, the gift of Mrs. Platt, and on either side are 2 large gun-metal candelabra presented by the Duke of Westminster. The slab of the table is made of oak from Bashan, the carved panels are of olive-wood from Palestine, some of the smaller pieces coming from the Mount of Olives, whilst the shafts at the angles of the table are of cedar from Lebanon. The vaulted ceiling of the choir is modern and of oak.

The cloisters are entered by a doorway in the most eastern bay of the N. aisle of the nave. They are of good Perp. work, and their S. side has been rebuilt by Sir Gilbert Scott. "The unusual position of the cloisters and of the monastic buildings on the N. instead of the S. side of the nave, was probably owing to a grant of land having been made in that direction, while the boundary of the abbey was narrower on the S." At the S. end of the W. wall are remains of "carrels" or chambers for study. Opening from the W. is a vaulted Norm. chamber, supported by massive pillars. This apartment (which is only dimly lighted from the cloisters) is considered by some antiquaries to have been a promptuarium, or buttery, while others believe it has been an entertaining hall, where the abbots dispensed their hospitality. From the N. wall of the cloister opens out the *refectory* by a very graceful E. Eng. doorway. It formerly formed part of the King's Grammar School, and contains one of the finest specimens of lector's pulpit with staircase that exists in England, the only one like it being at Beaulieu in Hampshire; a doorway in the E. wall led to what was probably the dormitory. From the cloisters is entered, by an E. Eng. vestibule of rather continental appearance, the beautiful **Chapter House**,* which is a parallelogram in form, of 3 bays, and of very graceful E. Eng. architecture. In it is contained the Library, the principal curiosity of which is a MS. Bible of the 12th cent.

The *Abbey Gate* possesses a good

15th-cent. arch, above which is the Bishop's Registry. Amongst the bishops of the see of Chester were *George Coates*, in whose episcopate George Marsh, "the martyr," was burned; *John Bridgeman*, father of Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Chief Baron of England; *Brian Walton*, author of the famous Polyglot Bible; *John Wilkins*, of the Royal Society, and *John Pearson*, author of "The Exposition of the Creed."

The extramural *ch.* of **St. John** * is also of great interest, though its beauty has been impaired by the fall of its tower in 1881, which in its descent crushed the N. porch. Affairs have not been mended by the incongruous belfry which has been affixed to the ch. in place of the tower, which was 150 ft. in height and built of red sandstone. Its foundation dates from Saxon times (end of 7th cent.), and with the E. Norm. kings it became the cathedral ch. of the centre of Episcopal jurisdiction at Chester. A local legend says that King Ethelred "was admonished to erect it on a spot where he should find a white hind." The remains of a fresco on one of the Norm. arches illustrate this legend, the rest of the fresco representing St. John the Baptist, who is the patron of the ch.

At the time when Chester, Lichfield, and Coventry formed one diocese and St. John's was its Cathedral, the ch. must have possessed great beauty. It was cruciform, having nave, transepts, choir, and an E. Lady Chapel. It had a central tower, and probably 2 others at the W. end. The central tower fell, destroying much of the choir, in 1468, and a second time in 1572. Two years later, part of the N.W. tower fell, destroying a portion of the W. end of the ch., and, as above mentioned, it fell again in 1881, when its remains, being irrestorable, were removed, and the porch, which it had crushed, was rebuilt as an exact copy of that which it replaced.

Notice particularly the massiveness and dignity of the E. Norm. pillars, 5 ft. 6 in. in diameter, which separate the nave from the aisles. Also, above them, the unique double row or triforium of arches, springing from light shafts. There are some Norm. blocked piers in the chancel, on each side of which a chapel was added at a subsequent period. The Warburton Chapel, on the S. of the communion table, contains a curious medallion, and skeleton monument. It has good iron doors. The W. window represents a number of scenes from the history of Chester. It was designed by E. Frampton and given by the Duke of Westminster. The ruins of the Lady Chapel and other portions of the original E. end should be inspected. In the wall of one part will be seen an oak coffin built in by a window, in an upright position.

Another vaulted 13th-cent. chamber is called the "*Crypt*." There was formerly a modern residence built above this, in which for some time De Quincey lived.

King Harold is said to have retired to Chester after the battle of Hastings, and dwelt in a small cell on the S. wall of this ch.-yd. **Grosvenor Park**, a very pretty public promenade given to the town by the Duke of Westminster, adjoins St. John's Ch. It contains a marble monument of the 2nd Marquis by Thornycroft.

St. Peter's Church is believed to stand on the site of a Saxon ch. founded by Æthelfleda of Mercia; it does not, however, contain much of interest. It is placed in the very centre of the city, where the 4 streets meet —"the Pentise" of Fuller—which Pennant considers to have been the site of the Roman prætorium. Its spire was taken down in 1699.

The ch. of **St. Mary** "upon the hill," or "of the castle," and situated near the latter, is of Norm. foundation. It possesses nave, aisles, tower, chancel, and 2

chapels. That of the N. contains two altar-tombs: (1) Thomas Gamull, Recorder 1613, and Alice his wife, with their son, then an infant, afterwards the loyal Sir Francis. There are 3 infant daughters holding skulls. (2) Philip Oldfield of Bradwall (ob. 1616), the upper slab supported by his 4 sons. In the N. aisle is a slab to the memory of 4 of the Holmes family. One of these, Randle, wrote a book on heraldry, "The Academy of Armory," 1688.

St. Mary, Handbridge, "without the walls," is the parish ch. of the old parish of St. Mary-on-Hill. It is a modern edifice.

Trinity Church, in Watergate Street, rebuilt 1869, contains the graves of Mathew Henry, the commentator and Nonconformist, and Parnell, the poet, Archdeacon of Clogher (d. 1718), whose family was connected with Congleton, in this county. Other churches are **St. Michael's**, in Bridge Street, restd. in 1850, to which is united the ch. of **St. Olave's**, now little used. **St. Thomas's**, in Parkgate Road, built 1871, has been made the parish ch. of St. Oswald's parish, in lieu of the S. transept of the Cathedral.

The **Castle**, as it at present stands, is an extensive Grecian edifice, with a Doric temple for an entrance, and not a single feature of a castle. The building which preceded it was originally a Norm. (Hugh Lupus), or perhaps a Roman fortress. The wings form a military barrack, while the centre contains the assize court and county gaol. It is used for military purposes, a detachment of soldiers being usually stationed here, and a large stand of arms was kept until the attempted Fenian raid in 1867, which was fortunately frustrated. Before the Castle Gate stands the equestrian statue of Lord Combermere. Only one portion of the old building is left, a square tower, called Cæsar's or Julius Agricola's Tower, used as a powder magazine. Within it is a chapel (St. Mary infra Castrum) with a vaulted and groined roof. Here King James II. received the Sacrament during his stay in Chester. From its commanding position on the Dee, the Castle is an important feature in Chester views.

Other points of interest for the visitor to Chester are the **Townhall** in Northgate Street, a handsome building, erected in 1869 and opened by the Prince of Wales. The municipal insignia include a fine silver-gilt mace, given to the town by Charles, 8th Earl of Derby, Lord of Man and the Isles and Mayor of Chester, 1668. It bears the arms of Stanley, Chester, and the Isle of Man. The **Music Hall** is built on the site of the ancient chapel of St. Nicholas.

The **Blue Coat School** is just outside the walls at the Northgate. The S. wing is occupied by the chapel of St. John, commonly called Little St. John, founded by Randal, Earl of Chester, for 13 citizens, "either poor or sillie, or poor or feeble persons."

The **Grosvenor Museum** was built in 1885 at a cost of 17,000*l.*, raised by public subscription. It contains a most interesting collection of antiquities, particularly relative to Roman Deva, such as altars and tombstones. The visitor should not fail to see the Natural History Museum in this building; the collection of stuffed birds with nests and eggs, in natural surroundings, prepared by the curator, is worth a long journey to see. The late Canon Kingsley was the founder of the Chester Natural History Society.

1 m. S.E. of the city, at **Boughton**, overlooking the Dee, is the spot where George Marsh, the Lancashire martyr, was burned at the stake for preaching the Reformed doctrine in 1555.

Railways.—To Manchester, 40 m.; Crewe, 21 m.; London, 187 m.; Birkenhead, 16 m.; Holyhead, 84 m. Wrexham, 11 m.; Holywell, 18 m.; Llangollen, 24 m.; Shrewsbury, 42 m.; Mold, 13 m.; Bangor, 60 m.

Distances.—Beeston Castle, 10½;

Carden, 11; Malpas, 15; Tarporley, 10; Tarvin, 5½; Delamere Forest, 10½; Northwich, 17.

Excursions:—

(1) To **Eaton Hall** and neighbourhood.

A visit should be paid to **Eaton Hall** ✲ (3 m.), the magnificent seat of the Duke of Westminster. The present Hall, the fourth on this site, was built in 1867 and succeeding years (A. Waterhouse, R.A., archt.) The great *Courtyard* is surrounded by 17th-cent. ironwork railings, and entered by the golden gates belonging to the Hall of the same date. In the interior is a colossal equestrian statue in bronze (weight 7½ tons), of Hugh Lupus, nephew of William I., the work of G. F. Watts, R.A. In the stableyard is a figure, by the late Sir J. E. Boehm, R.A., of a groom holding a rearing horse. The *Clock Tower*, 175 ft. high, contains a chiming apparatus and 28 bells, and in the *Chapel* near by, which is highly decorated, is a recumbent alabaster figure of the 1st Duchess of Westminster (Sir J. E. Boehm, R.A.)

The *Central Hall* has a doorway of alabaster, and contains a number of historical paintings. The floor is of marble mosaic, the walls to a height of 9 ft. are lined with Derbyshire alabaster, and the seats are of Peterhead granite.

The *Saloon*, 16 by 32 ft., contains a painting of the Canterbury Pilgrims, by H. Stacy Marks, R.A., above the wainscoted dado. Other rooms are the *ante-Drawing-room*, with 12 paintings of birds by the last-named artist; the *Drawing-room*, 45 by 65 ft., decorated with rich embroidery. Here is a remarkable gold torque found near Holywell in Flintshire, which is 44 in. in circumference and weighs 28 oz. *The Library*, 92 ft. in length by 30 ft. in width, is lined with bookcases to a height of 11 ft., and contains 5 historical pictures by West, P.R.A. The *Grand Corridor* contains "The Fathers of the Church" and "The Adoration of the Magi," by Rubens. The *ante-Dining-room* and the *Dining-room* contain family portraits, and in the latter is a "Bear Hunt," attributed to Rubens, and a "Lion Hunt," by Snyders. The gardens and conservatories are on a large scale, and there is a terrace nearly 400 ft. in length on the S. side of the house.

The Dee is crossed nearly opposite the village of Aldford by a light suspension-bridge, erected by the Marquis of Westminster in 1824.

Eccleston *ch.* is a pretty cruciform ch., containing a painting by *Westall*, the subject being Joseph of Arimathæa begging the body of our Saviour. Ralph Lowndes, a rector of Eccleston, in 1685, was deprived of his living for refusing the oaths, and continued a nonjuror till his death. The ch. is the burial-place of the Grosvenor family, by whom it was beautifully restored from designs by *Porden*. In old days, when salmon were plentiful in the Dee, the Rector of Eccleston, whose rectory stands in pleasant grounds surrounded by Eaton Park, had the right of obtaining every 20th fish. The Grosvenor family claims the serjeantry of the Dee, but the only privilege used is that of providing the ferry-boat and receiving the tolls. This serjeantry was originally given to Robert de Eton, from Eton Weir to Arnoldsheye (a rock opposite Chester Castle), by the service of clearing the river from all nets improperly placed there—"and to have tolle from every flote at Eton passing his weir, de primâ Knycke unum denarium qui vocatur hache penny et de quâlibet Knycke sequente unum quadrantem, and to have waifs and wrecks on his manor of Eton, and two still nets and two free boats on Dee."—*Harl. MSS.*

The small portion of Cheshire that lies on the W. bank of the Dee can best be visited by the Great Western line to Shrewsbury, which quits the Holyhead Rly. at *Saltney*, and turns abruptly to the S. The Denbighshire

border is crossed at **Pulford** *Stat.* Here was once an abbey of Cistercians, founded by Robert Pincerna, brother of the Earl of Chester, in 1158. It had but a brief existence, for the irruptions of the Welsh made it such an unpleasant residence for the monks that they were transferred to Dieulacresse in Staffordshire. The order for removal was said to have been given in a dream to Earl Randal Blundeville.

There are scarcely any traces of the castle of the Pulfords, the site of which is close to the ch. on the bank of the brook that divides Cheshire and Denbighshire. Between Pulford and the river is *Lache Hall*, the old seat of the Manleys, of Monksfield, which was garrisoned by Sir William Brereton, who made it his headquarters during the siege of Chester. **Dodlestone**, to the W. of Pulford, was the property of the Boydells, who had a castle here, the site of which was subsequently occupied by a house built by the Manleys. Both have long since disappeared. The *ch.* was given by Alan de Boydell to St. Werburgh in Chester in the reign of King John. It contains a monument to Thomas Egerton, Lord Ellesmere, Lord Keeper, who lived at Dodlestone Hall in the 16th cent.

The boundaries of the parish were marked by a series of wells, which used to be cleaned out by the parishioners in their perambulations. A curious entry exists respecting the well on Dodlestone Moor, 1642—"This year the Curate of Gresford, with some of the parishioners, having come for divers yeares to Moor Well, some of them over the Moor, and some of them through Pulford parish in procession, saying that they were sent thither to claim that well to be in their parish, and now this yeare when they were in the Moor, they saw some soldiers standing by the well, which wanted to see their fashions, on which the said Curate and his company went back again, and never came again to the well."

1½ m. to the W. of Dodlestone is *Kinnerton Hall*, an old gabled farmhouse, in Edward III.'s time held by the Boydells.

(2) To *Hawarden*, Flintshire. This village, of interest not only on account of its ancient castle, but also because it is the seat of the Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone, P.C., may be reached by train from Northgate or Liverpool Road stats., or by bus. Hawarden ✡

is "mentioned in Domesday, and after the Conquest was included in the grant to Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester. It passed after the death of the last earl to the Barons of Montalt, now the modern town of Mold. In 1337 Hawarden passed to the Earl of Salisbury, and reverting to the Crown, was granted to the Duke of Clarence, 2nd son of Henry IV. In 1454 it was made over to Sir Thomas Stanley, afterwards Lord Stanley, whose son became the 1st Earl of Derby. Hawarden remained in the Stanley family for 200 years. In 1653 it was sequestrated and purchased by Serjeant (afterward Chief Justice) Glynn. At the Restoration, a determined effort was made to recover Hawarden for the Stanley family, and a debate took place on the question in the House of Lords. The purchase was, however, confirmed, and Hawarden remained in the Glynne family until the death of the last baronet, Sir Stephen Glynne, in 1874. The lordship of the manor then passed, by a family arrangement, to Mr. Gladstone's eldest son."—*Daily Graphic.*

The **old Castle**, founded probably during the reign of Henry III., and added to in that of Edward I., stands on an eminence with a deep ravine on the S., and protecting earthworks on its other aspects. "The place presents in a remarkable degree the features of a well-known class of earthworks found both in England and Normandy. This kind of fortification by mound, bank, and ditch was in use in the 9th, 10th, and even in the 11th cent., before masonry was general. The mound was crowned with a strong circular house of timber, such as in the Bayeux tapestry the soldiers are attempting to set on fire. The court below, and the banks beyond the ditches, were fenced with palisades and defences of that character."—*G. T. Clarke.*

The castle was held for two years by the Royalists during the Civil War, occupied subsequently by the Parliamentarians, and finally blown

up, 1646, by order of the House of Commons.

The *keep* is circular and 61 ft. in diameter, with a wall 15 ft. thick at the base. It was divided into 2 floors, the upper containing the State apartments and the chapel. There is a hagioscope between the 2 rooms. On the E. are the remains of the kitchen offices, and on the N.E. some parts of the main entrance.

The **modern Castle** was built of red brick in the middle of the 18th cent. by Sir John Glynne, and has, at later dates, been faced with stone, provided with wings and 4 turrets, and been castellated. Forming one side of the castle-yard is an old manor-house. The castle contains a picture of Sir Kenelm Digby by Vandyck, and many interesting modern works of art. The park comprises about 250 acres.

The *ch.*, built about 1275, possesses a reredos of alabaster and a recumbent effigy of Sir Stephen Glynne (ob. 1874).

In the village are a *fountain*, erected by the inhabitants in commemoration of Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone's golden wedding, and *St. Deiniol's Library*, founded by Mr. Gladstone.

ROUTE 25.

FROM CHESTER TO WARRINGTON, BY FRODSHAM.

Rail.	Places.
	Chester
5½ m.	**Dunham**
7½ m.	**Helsby Junct.**
	[Cross line to **Hooton**
2 m.	**Ince**
5 m.	**Whitby**
7 m.	**Sutton**
9 m.	**Hooton Junct.**]
10 m.	**Frodsham**
12 m.	**Halton**
13½ m.	**Norton**
16½ m.	**Daresbury**

The *Cheshire Junct. Rly.*, which is the nearest rte. from Chester to Manchester, takes a north-easterly course from the general stat., having on l., 1 m., *Hoole Hall* (Mrs. Potts), *Hoole Bank* (C. Wigg, Esq.), and on rt. the village of **Guilden Sutton**, formerly called Golden Sutton. *Hoole Heath* was one of the three sanctuaries for criminals permitted by the Earls of Chester within the Palatinate.

2½ m. l., at **Mickle Trafford**, Sir William Brereton placed a garrison for the King during the siege of Chester, taking advantage of a pass through which the turnpike-road to Frodsham runs.

On rt. is **Plemstall** *ch.* It is of the date of Henry VIII. and has a nave, chancel, and N. aisle; at the E. end of which is a chapel of the Trafford family. "Adjoining the pulpit are some brilliantly coloured figures in a kneeling position, of Thomas Smyth and 'Marget hys wyf,' with 7 sons and 4 daughters." Underneath the E. window on the outside is a raised monument, the sides carved with skeletons.

5½ m. *Dunham Stat.* On rt. is *Wimbold Trafford Hall* (Miss Perryn). On the l. he country, hitherto flat and uninteresting, becomes broken and picturesque, with knolls and wooded escarpments. They form the western and northern boundaries of the Forest of Delamere, and as they approach Helsby and Frodsham become developed into a fine range of abrupt hills, which are landmarks over all Cheshire and South Lancashire, and command very wide panoramic views.

At 7½ m., *Helsby Junct.*, a line is given off to l., affording to Warrington and Manchester the advantage of a short cut to Birkenhead, without necessitating the détour by Chester; also another, called the West Cheshire, connecting the Mersey with Northwich and the salt districts (Rte. 21). **Helsby Hill**, surmounted

by a camp, is the first of the series of bluffs that command the Mersey, and the pedestrian cannot do better than ascend it, and continue his excursion along the chain to Frodsham. In this hill, of which the sandstone is very soft, are several caves. 1 m. to the S. of Helsby is the village of **Alvanley**, which gave the title of Lord Alvanley—Lord Alvanley was the famous wit and bon-vivant who figures so largely in the "Greville Memoirs"—(extinct in 1857) to the family of Arderne. Ormerod says that the Ardernes of Alvanley were the only house in the Hundred of Eddisbury who have held their estates in the direct male line for nearly 6 cents. The *ch.* stands on the site of a chapel founded by Catherine Arderne (temp. Henry VI.); close to it stood the castle of the Alvanleys, now represented only by a trace of the moat. The whole of the scenery of the pass between Alvanley and Frodsham is highly romantic.

[From Helsby to Hooton, on the Birkenhead line, the distance is 9 m. over flat alluvial country on the banks of the Mersey.

2 m. **Ince** *Stat.* From the low elevation of the land, and the name of Ince (Ynys, Insch, or Innis, island), it is evident that the rocky projection on which the village is situated was once surrounded by water. The abbots and monks of St. Werburgh, Chester, to whom this manor was given by Hugh Lupus, complained that in Wyrral and their manor of Ynes they had lost by inundations of the sea 30 carucates of land, and were daily losing more. They also laid claim to the manorial right of "wrecum maris," or sea-wrack, 3 m. farther from the sea than could possibly be the case now. Indeed, for more than that distance, the soil of the valley, 1 yd. below the surface, shows the same grey sea-sand as the ground which has been recovered from the Dee by embankment.

The old manor-house of the abbots (now a farmhouse) was originally fortified and defended by a stone wall and moat, hewn out of the solid rock. The barn was probably the abbots' hall, and still contains 8 large windows. The *ch.* (restd. in 1854) has a very conspicuous and handsome tower. The manor, which after the Dissolution passed successively into the possession of the Cottons, the Cholmondeleys, Wynnes, and Warings, at present rests with Mrs. Yates, who resides at *Ince Hall*, a modern Italian building, close to the riverside. On the l. of Ince Stat. is *Elton Hall*, now a farmhouse, but once the seat of the Frodsham family. It is of 17th cent. date.

Thornton. (1 m. S.W.) The *Hall* was the old moated residence of the family of Le Roter. The *ch.* consists of nave, chancel, and aisle, the S. aisle being erected as a chapel by the Frodshams of Elton. It contains a piscina with trefoil arch under a canopy, and some monuments to the Gerard family and that of the Bunburies of Stanney. One of the early rectors was Bernard Gilpin, the Reformer, who, by opportunely meeting with a broken leg in 1553, which caused his death, escaped martyrdom.

Quitting Ince Stat. the rly. crosses a little tidal inlet, at the N. of which, on Stanlaw Point, is the site of the Abbey of **Stanlaw**, founded in the 12th cent. for Cistercian monks by John, Constable of Chester. After acquiring the rectory of Rochdale from Roger de Lacy, and of Blackburn and Eccles from the Earl of Lincoln, they migrated to Whalley Abbey in Lancashire, which flourished with a grandeur which Stanlaw never reached. The Abbot of Stanlaw was one of the spiritual Barons who held under the Earls of Chester, and sat in the Parliament of that Palatinate. Although Stanlaw bore the name of "Locus Benedictus," it was not a pleasant place, and the monks had a great deal to put up with. It was low and unhealthy, often flooded, and inaccessible at spring

tides; added to which, the tower of the ch. fell down in 1287, while, 2 years afterwards, most of it was consumed by fire.

5 m. **Whitby** *Stat.* On rt. is the busy little port of Whitby Locks, or **Port Ellesmere**, the tidal termination of the Ellesmere Canal, which thus communicates with the Dee and the whole inland waterway between Cheshire, Shropshire, and the Midland counties. Iron ore is imported into the surrounding districts, while iron in its manufactured state is here loaded for exportation, and a brisk business is carried on.

Opposite the port is the embankment separating the Ship Canal from the Mersey. It is formed of piles and timber framing, filled in with clay, stones and rubble, 140 ft. wide at the base and 70 at the summit. There is a pontoon dock here capable of raising and docking vessels of 5,000 tons, and 350 ft. in length.

Whitby Hall (J. Grace, Esq.)

7 m. *Sutton Stat.*

9 m. *Hooton Junct.* (Rte. 26).]

10 m. **Frodsham**✠ *Stat.* The town, most picturesquely situated at the foot of Overton Hill (400 ft.), is of considerable antiquity, and the Bear's Paw Inn has over its doorway the date 1632. Of the castle nothing is left, its site being occupied by a modern house, *Castle Bank* (the Misses Wright), but the *ch.* is interesting. It is placed at Overton, some distance outside the town, and consists of nave, chancel, side aisles, and tower. The nave is divided from the aisles by 3 arches, 3 pillars of which are cylindrical, and the 4th octagonal. By the altar is a priest's stall, with trefoil head and canopy. Amongst the monuments is one to Mr. Hyde, of Cattenhall, 1715. The **Beacon Hill** is said to have been used for signalling purposes as lately as the last cent. **Netherton**, at the S. end of the town, is said to have been the residence of the Nangreaves from the time of Henry VIII. to 1815, when the family became extinct *Limosella aquatica* has been found in the neighbourhood.

Frodsham is connected with the busy port of Runcorn by the direct route of the London and North-Western Rly. between Liverpool and Chester. (See Runcorn, p. 150.)

3 m. to the rt. of Frodsham is the village of **Aston** and *Aston Hall*, the seat of the Astons in the time of Edward III. Under a peculiar deed they had a right to their diet at Norton Priory, and among the Aston MSS. in the British Museum there is a curious document of the reign of Henry VI., in which Richard Aston complains that he had not the same allowance as his ancestors had.

Quitting Frodsham, the rly. crosses the Weaver river and canal, near its mouth, by a lofty viaduct, on the other side of which is

12 m. *Halton Stat.* On an eminence overlooking the river is the site (with very scanty traces) of *Rock Savage*, a splendid residence erected in the reign of Elizabeth by Sir J. Savage. The Cholmondeley family still take from it the title of Earl of Rock Savage.

Halton is a pretty red sandstone village of neat houses and villas, placed along the terraced side of Halton Hill, the summit of which is occupied by the castle and ch. There is a magnificent view from it of the whole estuary of the Mersey, the Ship Canal, a large extent of South Lancashire, Runcorn and its bridge, the Frodsham and Helsby hills, and the Welsh mountains in the distance.

The *Castle*, although the outer wall is of great extent, has no architectural features of interest left the before the days of artillery its situation must have made it wellnigh impregnable.

It was erected 1071 by Hugh Lupus. It was a hunting-seat of John of Gaunt, and was subsequently a prison for recusants. During

the Civil War it was garrisoned for the King, and besieged and taken by Sir Wm. Brereton in 1644. It has long been in the possession of the Crown as a part of the Duchy of Lancaster, and is held on lease by the Marquis of Cholmondeley. The jurisdiction of the Honour of Halton, or Halton Fee, as it is called, is large and peculiar, having a prison, a court of record, and other privileges; and one of the customs of the manor was, that the driver of cattle crossing the common should pay a halfpenny a head to the Lord of the Fee if his cattle took so much as a bite at a thistle. This perquisite was termed Thistletake. Piers Plowman speaks of the situation of Halton, but in rather dubious terms as to the honesty of the neighbourhood :—

"Thoro the pass of Haultoun
Poverte might passe whith owte peril of robbyrye."

Courts leet have been held for 700 years at the Castle Inn, which stands within the ruins.

The *ch.*, also of New Red sandstone, is placed just beneath the castle, and is a good example of the adaptation of architectural requirements to the ground on which it is built. It has been well restored. It is of E. Eng. date, with nave, aisles, and clerestory, and a very short chancel. There is a good W. window of stained glass of 2 E. Eng. compartments, with a rose light above.

Runcorn, a busy port on the Mersey, has attained its growth in connection with the canal system. Runcorn is of considerable antiquity, and a ch. and castle are said to have existed before the Conquest—the latter, a fortress of Æthelfleda, situated on what is still known as the Castle Rock. The Mersey contracts here to a breadth of 400 yds., known to sailors as Runcorn Gap, and from the fact of its being fordable at low water, it no doubt gave a considerable value to Halton Castle as a fortress.

But it was not till the time of the Duke of Bridgewater and his factotum, Brindley the engineer, that Runcorn became of any importance in the commercial annals of the county. Brindley selected it as the termination of the Grand Trunk Canal at the Mersey. "The entire length of the new canal from Longford Bridge to the upper part of Runcorn, nearly 28 m. in extent, was finished and opened for traffic in the year 1767, after the lapse of about 5 years from the passing of the Act. The formidable flight of locks from the level part of the canal down to the waters of the Mersey at Runcorn was not finished for several years later, by which time the receipts derived by the Duke from the sale of his coals, and the local traffic of the undertaking, enabled him to complete them with comparatively little difficulty. Considerable delay was occasioned by the resistance of an obstinate landowner, near Runcorn, who interposed every obstacle which it was in his power to offer; but his opposition, too, was at length overcome, and the new and complete line of water communication between Manchester and Liverpool was finally opened throughout.

"In a letter written from Runcorn, dated May 1, 1773, it is stated that 'yesterday the locks were opened, and the "Heart of Oak," a vessel of 50 tons burthen, for Liverpool, passed through them.'"—*Smiles.*

To suit the requirements of the port, large warehouses and docks were built. The canal is placed at a much higher level than the Mersey, with which it is connected through the Ship Canal by a succession of locks. The Ship Canal "approaches Runcorn from the E., through the bed of the old Runcorn and Latchford Canal, and, proceeding westward, follows close by the bend of the Cheshire shore to Eastham Locks. The canal, for a short distance near the town, passes through the deepest cutting on the whole route, the depth being 66 ft.; but from Runcorn bridge to the Weaver sluices the canal is wholly in the bed of the Mersey, and separated from the river by a massive concrete wall."—*Kelly.* Brindley's original proposal was to connect the Lancashire and Cheshire shores by a bridge, but this was too expensive for the Duke, and it has been left for the London and North-Western Rly. Company to do it, in the shape of a work which throws Brindley's plan into the shade. The direct line from London to Liverpool is given off at Preston Junct. (Rte. 18), and crosses the river at Runcorn Gap by a fine *viaduct* and open lattice-girder bridge, 1,500 ft. long, and 75 ft. above the river at high water. Two massive stone piers support it, leaving 3 intervals of 300 ft. each, so as not to interfere with the navigation. The approaches are sustained by 97 arches. A roadway is added for the convenience of foot-

passengers. It was built by Mr. Wm. Baker, begun in 1863 and completed 1868. A large trade is carried on at the port between Liverpool and the Midland districts, and it is one of the chief routes by which the Staffordshire potteries receive their china-clay and stone, which is brought to Runcorn by ship from Cornwall. With the exception of the rly. and canal works, there is not much to be seen in the place. The *ch.* is modern, having superseded the old one in 1849, and contains a good E. window given by Sir Richard Brooke, representing the Last Supper and other incidents in the life of the Saviour. At **Weston**, 2½ m. S., are the large chemical works of the United Alkali Company, and at **Weston Point** are the docks of the Weaver Navigation, and a lighthouse.

Rail to Crewe and Liverpool, from Runcorn.

13½ m. **Norton** *Stat.* On l. is *Norton Priory*, the beautiful seat of Sir Richard Brooke, Bart., a Grecian edifice built on the site of a religious house, which was founded in Stephen's reign for Canons Regular by William FitzNigell.

Although originally placed at Runcorn, it was afterwards removed to Norton and enriched with many benefactions, including "two deer yearly on the Feast of the Assumption."

At the time of the Dissolution the Abbot made great resistance to the sale of the manor to Sir Richard Brooke, but was promptly ordered by King Henry to be hanged for his impertinence, "for the terrible example of all others hereafter." Sir William Brereton, however, respited him, and so the Abbot escaped. Like many other Cheshire mansions, Norton came in for rough treatment during the Civil Wars, having been besieged by the Royalists in 1643.

"One place above others hath been extremely assaulted. Mr. Brooke, of Norton's, a neere neighbour to the Earle Rivers, against which they brought their cannon, with many horse and foote, and fell to batter it on a Sabbath day. Mr. Brooke had eighty men in the house. We were carefulle he should lacke no powder. With all other things Master Brooke furnisht them fully. A man upon his tower, with a flag in his hand, *cryd them ayme*, while they discharged their cannon, saying, 'Wide, my Lord, on the right hand. Now wide two yards on the left, two yards over, my Lord.' He made them swell with anger when they could not endamage the house, for they only wounded one man, lost 46 of their own and their cannonier."

"To cry aim" is a technical phrase from the archery butts, used by Shakespeare, "King John," II. 196, "Merry Wives of Windsor," III. 2, 45; cf. *ibid.*, II. 3, 93. It was the man at the target who told the archers at long ranges whether they had fired right or left, short of or over the mark. It is not quite apparent who the "my Lord" in this extract was.

Between Norton and **Daresbury** *Stat.* (16½ m.) the line crosses the L. & N.W. Rly. at a high level. On rt. is *Daresbury Hall* (S. B. Chadwick, Esq.) Daresbury *ch.* (restd. in 1871) is the "White Chapel of England" of Nixon's prophecies, contains remains of a rood-loft, a carved oak pulpit, sedilia, and a bas-relief by Gibson. Before the Mersey is crossed the 2 rlys. unite, and together enter the stat. at *Warrington* (*Hdbk. for Lancashire*).

ROUTE 26.

FROM CHESTER TO BIRKENHEAD.

Rail.	Places.
	Chester
3 m.	Mollington
m.	Ledsham
8½ m.	Hooton Junct.
10 m.	Bromborough
12 m.	Spital
13 m.	Bebington
14 m.	Tranmere
15 m.	Birkenhead
	Birkenhead
3½ m.	Bidston
5½ m.	Wallasey
6½ m.	New Brighton
	Birkenhead
4 m.	Leasowe
8 m.	Hoylake
16 m.	Neston
20 m.	Hooton Junct.

The Wirral peninsula, part of which has already been described in connection with the rly. from Helsby to Hooton, is traversed by a line

from Chester to Birkenhead, and thence to Liverpool *viâ* the Mersey Tunnel. From Hooton a line is given off to the E. which reaches the shores of the Dee at Neston, runs along the coast to Hoylake and New Brighton, and is connected again with Birkenhead by a branch passing through Bidston.

The main line from Chester to Birkenhead, 15 m. in length, quits the general stat., leaving the County Lunatic Asylum on the l.

3 m. **Mollington** *Stat.* Rt. is *Moston Hall* (Mrs. James Swetenham), *Backford Hall* (B. Clegg, Esq.), and l. *Mollington Hall* (Mrs. Blomfield). A little to the rt. of Moston is the **Butter Hill**, where the country people left their commodities for the city when the plague was raging. The traveller is now fairly in the peninsula of **Wirral**, that tongue of land lying between the estuaries of the Dee and the Mersey.

"Oh ! thrice happy shire, confin'd so to bee,
'Twixt two so famous floodes as Mersey is and Dee ;
Thy Dee upon the west from Wales doth thee divide,
Thy Mersey on the north from the Lancastrian side."—*Polyolb.* xi. 33-6.

"From the city," says Camden, "northwestward, there runneth out a Chersonese into the sea, inclosed on one side with the estuary of Dee and on the other with the river Mersey. We call it Wirall, the Welsh (because it is a corner) Killgwry ; this was all, heretofore, a desolate forest, and not inhabited (as the natives say) : but King Edward III. disforested it. Now it is well furnished with towns, which are more favoured by the sea than by the soil; for the land affords them very little corn, but the water a great many fish."

The physical geography of Wirral was not the same, even in the so-called Prehistoric period, as it is now. The Hundred of Wirral and the Hundred of Broxton are said to have communicated by a valley still marked with shells and sand, which a tide a little higher than usual would cover, making the district into an island. This view is corroborated by the name of Ince (Ynys, island), and several old documents relating to the ancient shore rights.

4 m. W. of Mollington, nearly opposite Queensferry, is **Shotwick**. Shotwick at the Conquest was held by the Secular Canons of St. Werburgh of Chester, from whom William took it and gave it to Hugh Lupus, who granted it to the Benedictine Monks. The manor was held of their abbots by a family of the name of Sotowicke. The *ch.* is situate at the top of the old river-bank, dedicated, like many others in like position, to St. Michael and All Angels. The ch. consists of a large, square, embattled tower, nave, N. aisle prolonged, and chancel. It has been doubted whether the present chancel is the old one, or whether the chapel at the end of the N. aisle is not where the altar originally stood ; as is inferred from some still remaining stone steps, and the fragment of an old rood-screen. It appears probable, however, that the first view is the correct one. The porch is E. Norm. in all probability, though it has been called Saxon. There are a few fragments of old glass, and an inscribed stone within the communion rails in memory of John Carter, curate in 1587. The canopied churchwardens' seats and "three-decker" pulpit are objects not now met with every day. There was a ch. on the same site in 600. The explanation of the problem of a ch. of so great size with so few cottages near it, and a population less than 100, is that the course of the Dee has changed, partly naturally, but mainly artificially, by reclamation of a large quantity of land. Hence the old seafaring population migrated about 2 cents. ago to Queensferry, Connah's Quay, &c. ; and the ch. is, as it were, left stranded, the main population being in the village of *Great Saughall*, 2 m. distant by footpath, 4 by road ; and of *Little Saughall*, a smaller hamlet, 1 m. farther off.

On the grounds of the Lord of the Manor at Great Saughall (Captain Trelawny, D.L.), the lines of a small ancient castle are traceable, particularly the moat; excavations on a

small scale have discovered the foundations. The old stones of the walls have gone to mend pigsties. Great Saughall lies on the top of the old river-bank, in a straight line with Shotwick.

A new *ch.* has been built at *Capenhurst*, between Shotwick and

7 m. *Ledsham Stat.*

[On l. 4 m., overlooking the Flintshire coast and the high grounds of Northop and Halkin, is *Burton Hall* (W. Congreve, D.L.) At Burton a hospital once flourished, but it was given by Henry VII. to the hospital of St. John at Lichfield, which till recently enjoyed the tithes. Dr. Wilson, the pious Bp. of Sodor and Man, was born here in 1663. The cottage where he was born is still standing. The oak surplice-cupboard in the ch. vestry was the Bishop's property, perhaps his wardrobe. The school was founded and endowed by the Bishop, and in his deed of gift, Wirral is spelt "Worrhall" or, as the country folk call it, Wharl. The tithes of Burton have been bought from the Hospital of St. John at Lichfield by Captain Congreve, the squire and patron of Burton.]

8½ m. **Hooton** Junct., with the Helsby line (Rte. 25) and with the Parkgate line. On rt. is *Hooton Hall* (the property of Miss Naylor), a fine park. The Hooton Hall art collection was sold in 1875, and the house has been unoccupied since 1877. Hooton was once a seat of the Stanleys, a branch of the Latham family, and staunch Catholics. From its situation, close to the river, it was a well-known receptacle for Catholic emissaries, who could be shipped off at a moment's notice, when necessary. Sir Rowland Stanley's eldest son William held a post of trust in Queen Elizabeth's army of the Netherlands, and was made governor of Deventer. But he shamefully betrayed his post and treacherously gave it up to the Spaniards. In Sir J. Stanley's time a seal was taken in a net off Hooton.

10 m. **Bromborough** *Stat.* The *ch.*, of recent date, stands on the site previously occupied by 2 other buildings. When that which the present edifice replaced was being removed, Saxon remains were discovered which are now on the rectory lawn. *Bromborough Hall* is the seat of Col. W. A. Rigby. On rt., 1 m., is **Eastham Ferry**, the Sunday and summer resort of Liverpool excursionists. Close to the Ferry are the entrance locks of the Ship Canal, 3 in number, divided by concrete piers 30 ft. wide, on which are placed the machines for working the gates. The largest lock is 600 ft. in length by 80 ft. in width, and it, as well as the other 2, is provided with storm gates as well as those in ordinary use. The village of **Eastham** is 1 m. S. between the Ferry and Hooton. The *ch.* contains many memorials to the Stanleys, and the chapel of the same family, which is at the E. end of the N. aisle, possesses a good screen with their arms. Here is also an oak chest. The font is Saxon.

12 m. **Spital** *Stat.* On rt. is a small tidal estuary called *Bromborough Pool*, utilised as a safe situation for the floating powder-magazines, which it would be imprudent to place nearer Liverpool. Here are also the works of Price's Patent Candle Co., together with shipping conveniences for loading the New Red sandstone from the **Storeton Hill**, 1 m. l.

The geologist should pay a visit to these quarries, which are in the Keuper beds. About 130 ft. from the base of the formation, footprints of the Rhyncosaurus and the Cheirotherium (Labyrinthodon), a huge amphibian of the Triassic era, have been found, similar to those at Lymm (Rte. 20).

13 m. *Bebington Stat.*

14 m. *Tranmere* or *Rock Ferry*, a part of Birkenhead.

15 m. **BIRKENHEAD**, ☆ like Crewe, Swindon, and Willesden inland, is essentially a place of modern growth, developed entirely by the rly. system and the enormous commerce attracted to Liverpool.

Prior to the reign of Edward III. it is said to have acquired its name of Berkin or Birchen from the extensive forest which, according to tradition, extended all over Lancashire from the Ribble to the Dee, giving rise to the old rhyme that—

"From Birchen haven to Hilbre
A squirril might hop from tree to tree."

Previous to the disforesting of the district by Edward III., "the whole of the peninsula between the Dee and the Mersey was possessed by Gherbaud, a noble Fleming; then by one Hugues d'Avranches, whose ferocity gained for him the cognomen of Le Loup. At that period the banks of the Mersey were so dangerous, from the existence of sandy shoals, that very little shipping sailed thence, and the shores of the Dee became the point of departure for English troops at the time when the conquest of Ireland began to engage the thoughts of the English monarch. The peninsula of N. Cheshire thus came more and more into notice, and about the year 1170 a priory was established at the spot now known as Birkenhead, for 16 monks of the Benedictine order."—*Land We Live In.*

The priors of Birkenhead appear to have had considerable power, and sat in the parliaments of the Earls of Chester. The rights of the ferry were given to them, the charges being "for a horseman twopence, for a man on foot one farthing, a halfpenny for a footman on market days, and a penny when he had goods or produce with him." One of the priors incurred the accusation of extortion for raising the rate on market day to a halfpenny, when it should be only one farthing. After the dissolution of the monasteries Birkenhead became the property of the Wortley family, and subsequently changed hands a good deal, being as lately as 1818 a little insignificant village with about 50 inhabitants.

But in 1824 a great change came over the place, which has since continuously and rapidly increased, until it has attained its present size, with its population of nearly 80,000 souls. It was in that year that the late Mr. Laird, a shipbuilder of Liverpool, purchased of the lord of the manor a few acres of land on the borders of *Wallasey Pool*, a swampy river which emptied itself into the Mersey about 2 m. W. of Birkenhead. For this investment he paid at the rate of 4*d.* per yard—selling it again a few years afterwards to the Corporation of Liverpool for nine times its former value.

This was partly owing to the success of Mr. Laird's shipbuilding yard and partly to the favourable opinion of Telford, Stephenson, and other engineers as to the qualifications of Wallasey Pool for docks.

Thus began the town existence of Birkenhead, which soon appointed commissioners to regulate its affairs and administer its finances, one of the most important of their negotiations being the purchase of the manorial rights of the Woodside and Monks' Ferry. Still, the Corporation of Liverpool, which had bought the land round Wallasey, took no further action in making docks; and it was not until 1843 that Mr. Laird, with two other gentlemen, Messrs. Potter and Jackson, bought back the land which he had sold 17 years before, at the rate of 10*s.* a yard, so that the value of the land in 20 years had increased 40-fold.

Having concluded their negotiations by the purchase of 600,000 additional yards, they called in the aid of Mr. Rendel to build their docks, the main feature of which was to convert the Wallasey Pool into an enormous basin, close to its junct. with the Mersey. The Act was passed in 1843, notwithstanding the determined opposition of the Liverpool Corporation, which seemed disposed not to do anything itself, nor to let anybody else do it. The fear of the injury that such a vigorous rival might do to their own docks, no doubt, was the cause of the opposition; but that has long been proved to be a false alarm. The docks were opened in 1847 by Lord Morpeth, and, after going through much difficulty and a very uphill existence, were finally transferred to the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board in 1858, thus eventually coming back again into the hands of the original owners.

The **Docks** have a total area of about 506 acres, the water area being over 164 acres, and the linear measurement of quays $9\frac{1}{2}$ m. In 1895 the total tonnage of vessels was 943,094 tons, and the total rates on goods and tonnage dues 90,332*l.* At the W. end is the West Float, with graving docks and a special area set aside for the petroleum trade. The East Float, at the other end, has leading from it the Egerton, Morpeth, Morpeth Branch, and Wallasey Docks. The most northerly basin is the Alfred Dock, which serves as the general approach for ships entering Birkenhead Docks. There are 2 large floating landing-stages, the *Birkenhead* or *Woodside* to the S. of the entrance to the Morpeth Dock, and the *Wallasey*.

Ferries.—*Woodside*, which has existed since 1282, is the property of the Birkenhead Commissioners, and is situated 1 m. from St. George's Pier. Above this is *Monks'* Ferry, and still farther *Birkenhead* Ferry. Between these the shore is occupied by shipbuilders' yards and dry docks. *New* Ferry is 3 m. from St. George's Pier, and near it are moored the quarantine and powder ships, also the training-ships *Conway*, *Indefatigable*, and *Akbar*.

There is little to interest the anti-

quary in Birkenhead, save the ruins of the *Priory*, near St. Mary's Ch. It was founded by Hamon de Massey, of Dunham Massey, in 1150, for monks of the Benedictine order. The charter of foundation gives rights of ferrying to the monks.

A grave slab of one of the priors (c. 1356) was discovered in St. Mary's ch.-yd., which includes the ancient burying-ground of the Priory. This has been placed in the wall near the door of the old *Chapter House*. *St. Mary's Ch.*, one of Rickman's buildings, was erected in 1821, and the other numerous churches are all of still more recent date.

St. Aidan's College, a large Tudor building in the township of Claughton, is for the training of candidates for the ministry of the Church of England. It is capable of receiving 60, and had 35 in residence in 1896. The *Townhall* is a fine building in Hamilton Street, with a clock tower 200 ft. high. There is a beautiful *Park* situated in Claughton, with an extent of 190 acres. It contains 2 lakes, covering 8 acres, and is entered through an archway in the Ionic style, in imitation of the entrance to the Temple of Jupiter at Athens.

Rail to Helsby Junct., 16 m.; Warrington, 27; Manchester, 49; Chester, 15; Hoylake, 8; New Brighton, 6½. *Steamers* to Liverpool, from Woodside Stage, every 10 minutes; from Monks' Ferry, on the arrival of trains.

Distances.—Oxton, 1½ m.; Eastham, 5½; Hoylake, 8; Bidston, 3½; Leasowe, 5; Parkgate, 9; New Brighton, 3½; Egremont, 2.

Excursions:—

(1) To **New Brighton**, by rail.

3½ m. **Bidston** *Stat.* Here is the Liverpool *Observatory*, established by the Dock Estate, where chronometers are sent to be regulated. It contains an equatorial of 12 ft. focal length and 8½ in. aperture, and self-regulating anemometer and barometer. From the *Lighthouse*, built 1771, a very charming view is obtained of the estuaries of the Mersey and the Dee, Liverpool, Birkenhead, Seacombe, Egremont, New Brighton, Hoylake, Flint, Mostyn, and a long expanse of Welsh mountains.

The village of *Bidston* is chiefly of interest from its description by Albert Smith, in his "Christopher Tadpole." The "Ring of Bells" is still in existence, though no longer an inn. It formerly bore on its signboard the following lines:

"Walk in, my friends, and taste my beer and liquor,
If your pockets be well stored, you'll find it come the quicker;
But for want of that has caused both grief and sorrow,
Therefore you must pay to-day, I will trust to-morrow."

5½ m. **Wallasey** *Stat.* The pool utilised for part of Birkenhead Docks covers a submerged forest, where stumps of trees and horns of the red deer and of the wild ox have been found.

6½ m. **New Brighton**, ✲ a favourite watering-place and resort of the people of the district. There are here a pier and all the other accessories of a seaside resort. Near New Brighton is the *Rock Fort*, and behind it, on a group of rocks known as "Rock Perch," the *Lighthouse*. Both of these were erected in 1828.

(2) To **Hoylake** and **Neston**, returning from Hooton Junct.

Beyond Bidston the line branches to the W.

1 m. **Leasowe** *Stat.* 1½ m. on the sea-coast, which is here fringed by a shoal called Mockbeggar Wharf, is the curious old structure of *Leasowe Castle*. The associations that surround it are very peculiar, the neighbourhood having from early days been celebrated for its racecourse. As far back as 1593, races were held here, at which time Leasowe was built by Ferdinand, Earl of Derby, as a sporting-lodge whence to witness them, under the name of Mockbeggar Hall. The

Duke of Monmouth figured in one of these races in 1683, and presented the prize which he won to the Mayor of Chester's daughter, whose godfather he was. The sports, which were one of the most fashionable gatherings of those times, fell into disuse about the end of the last cent. Leasowe Castle, although of Elizabethan age, has been added to in the present cent.; and it may now be described as a tall octagonal tower, with square turrets attached to its alternate faces, which terminate in gables rising above the centre of the building. The apartments possess many interesting curiosities. One is fitted up with the oak panelling of the Star Chamber, brought here from Westminster in 1834. Both it and the chimney-piece show by their decorations that they are of the age of Henry VIII. In the hall are much old oak-carving and some banners, one of which was brought by the Duke of Wellington from Paris in 1815. It was a presentation flag by the Emperor to the National Guards of that year.

8 m. **Hoylake** ✠ *Stat.* is a watering place, with the extensive links and club-house of the Royal Liverpool Golf Club. Near here, at a spot called Dove Point, have been found in recent years a great number of fibulæ, brooches, rings, and other early objects of personal adornment.

1 m. off the coast is *Hilbre Island*, marked by a telegraph, which, in the days before the electric wire became so universal, was an important link in the chain of telegraphs between Holyhead and Liverpool, by which early intimation was given to the port of vessels coming up channel. *Statice occidentalis* grows abundantly on it.

16 m. **Neston** *Stat.* The ch. here was rebuilt in 1786. Originally it was given before 1182 to the Abbot and Monastery of St. Werburgh at Chester, by Ralph de Montalt. In it are preserved some interesting Runic stones. It may be noted that the names of places in the Wirral peninsula, especially those ending in -by, and others, such as Thurstanton, point to an extensive Danish occupation.

Ashfield Hall (H. Banner, Esq., J.P.)

Close by is **Parkgate**, ✠ a watering-place that competes with those on the Mersey for Liverpool summer visitors. It has but few attractions, except an excellent pure air blowing over from the Dee and the Welsh hills, and very charming views of Flintshire and the estuary—the spot where "Lycidas" was shipwrecked, and where, at low water divided by an uncertain and dangerous channel, stretch far out the sands known to modern literature by the beautiful song in the novel of "Alton Locke"—

> "Oh Mary, go and call the cattle home,
> Across the sands of Dee."

Seen when the tide is in, the Dee (the Seteia Æstuarium of Ptolemy) appears a magnificent river, fit for a commercial navy, which might be attracted by the riches of its shores, the coal of its immediate basin, the lead from the limestone hills of Flintshire, the ancient smelting trade, which is, as it has been, one of its prerogatives—all these might be expected to lie in its anchorages, which are, on the contrary, a solitary waste of waves. This requires a remedy which will never be efficiently applied until its waters, as far as Mostyn Deeps, are confined in a ship canal.

The Dee itself, from Queensferry to Chester, was embanked in 1732, and by this means 50,000 acres were reclaimed for agricultural purposes.

From *Hooton Junct.* the tourist can return to Birkenhead or Chester.

From Bidston, a recently opened line of railway cuts diagonally across the peninsula. Passing Upton, Barnston, and Neston, and Parkgate stats., it reaches Connah's Quay. From this point a ready communication for Liverpool, Birkenhead and district is opened up with North Wales. A further line runs from Connah's Quay, *viâ* Sanghall and Blacon, to Chester. Places of interest on this line have been described in the immediately preceding pages.

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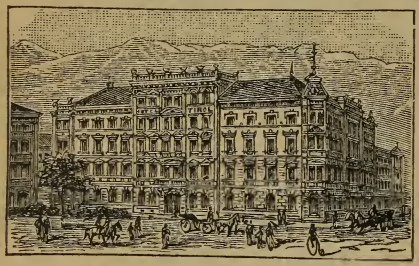

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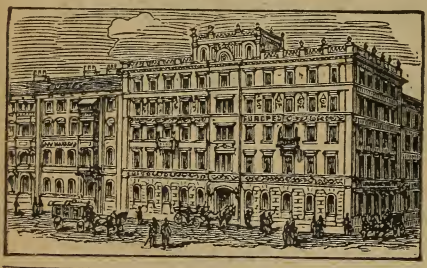

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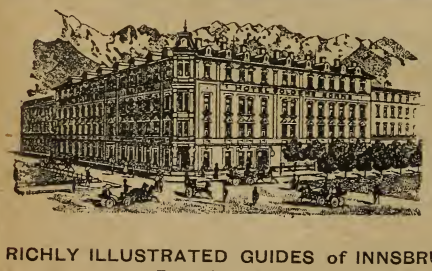

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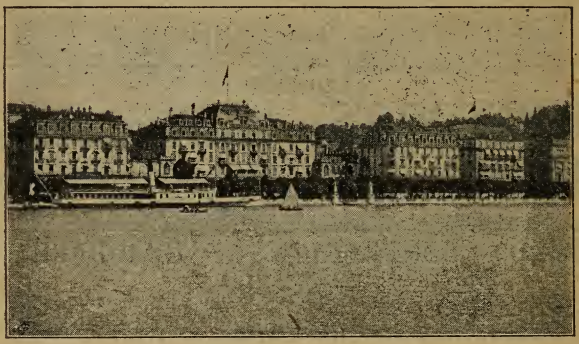

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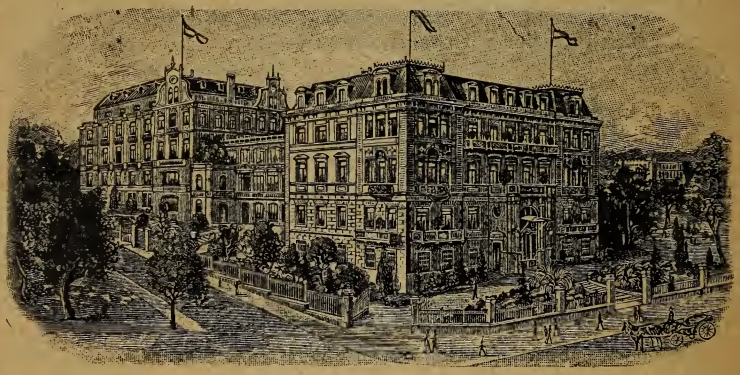

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